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INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

DUTCHMAN DETAINED



Dutch citizen Joran van der Sloot arrives at Chile's Investigative Police headquarters in Santiago, Thursday, June 3, 2010. Peruvian police are seeking Van der Sloot in connection with the last May 30 killing of 21-year-old Stephany Flores at a Lima hotel. Van der Sloot was previously arrested in the 2005 disappearance of U.S. teen Natalie Holloway, but later released by Dutch authorities.

Read more on B1

SPORTS NEWS

BLOWN CALL



First base umpire Jim Joyce looks on after calling Cleveland Indians' Jason Donald safe at first base in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit, Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Tigers' Armando Galarraga lost his bid for a perfect game with two outs in the inning on the disputed call at first base. Detroit won 3-0.

Read more on Back page



Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer prepares to walk into the West Wing of the White House in Washington, Thursday, June 3, 2010, after speaking with members of the media.

Associated Press

Ariz. Gov. Brewer wants separating fence completed

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON – Facing off over illegal immigration, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer told President Barack Obama that Americans “want our border secured” and called Thursday for completion of a separating fence. Obama underscored his objections that the tough immigration law she signed is discriminatory. Meeting in the Oval Office, Obama said Arizona's law and similar efforts by more than 20 states would interfere with the federal government's responsibility to set and enforce immigration policy.

Neither side appeared to give ground on the contentious issue although both talked about seeking a bipartisan solution. Obama urged her to “be his partner” in working toward a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's badly fractured immigration system. Brewer told The Associated Press afterward that she told Obama her state is not ready for the comprehensive solution he favors.

Continued on page 3

Upbeat Blagojevich goes on trial for corruption



Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, listens as his wife Patti makes a statement upon their arrival at the Federal Court building Thursday, June 3, 2010 in Chicago, for jury selection in his federal corruption trial.

Associated Press

MICHAEL TARM
MIKE ROBINSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

CHICAGO (AP) — Like a candidate still running for office, a smiling and jovial Rod Blagojevich waded into the crowd — making upbeat statements, hugging and shaking hands with supporters holding signs. He's not on a ballot anymore, though, and the only voters that matter are the 12 people who will be

chosen from the potential jurors being questioned Thursday. They will decide if the former Illinois governor tried to sell President Barack Obama's former Senate seat and leverage his power into a moneymaking enterprise. Since being ousted from office, Blagojevich has pleaded his innocence to the public on radio, in comedy shows and in a book, often playing the lovable goof.

Continued on page 5



Turkey honors slain activists, including U.S. teen

Continued on page 9



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BP trying to put a lid on the Gulf oil gusher

GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press Writer

METAIRIE, Louisiana (AP) — BP sliced off a pipe with giant shears in the latest bid to curtail the worst spill in U.S. history, but the cut was jagged and placing a cap over the gusher will now be more challenging.

The inverted funnel-like cap, which is slightly wider than the severed pipe, will be placed over the spewing oil. A rubber seal on the inside will attempt to keep oil from escaping, though engineers acknowledge some crude will still come out.

“We’ll have to see when we get the containment cap on it just how effective it is,” said Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government’s point man for the disaster.

BP PLC turned to the giant shears after a diamond-tipped saw became stuck in the pipe halfway through the job, yet another frustrating delay in the six-week-old spill. The cap could be set over the gusher as early as Thursday night.

If the cap can be put on successfully, BP will siphon the oil and gas to a tanker on the surface.



In this image made from video released by British Petroleum (BP PLC), a saw trims part of the blowout preventer at the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on Thursday June 3, 2010 in preparation for a capping device that will be lowered in hopes of sealing the leak.

Associated Press

“It’s an important milestone, and in some sense, it’s just the beginning,” BP CEO Tony Hayward said.

This latest attempt is risky because slicing away the section of the 20-inch-wide riser removed a kink in the pipe, and could

temporarily increase the flow of oil by as much as 20 percent.

Live video footage showed oil spewing unimpeded from the top of the blowout preventer, but Allen said it was unclear whether the flow had increased.

“I don’t think we’ll know until

the containment cap is seated on there,” he said. “We’ll have to wait and see.”

Crews will also use methanol to try to prevent icy-like crystals from forming on the inside of the cap. At this depth a mile underwater, the near-freezing

temperatures can cause a buildup up of hydrates, which foiled the company’s attempt to place a 100-ton, four-story dome over the leak about a month ago.

The Deepwater Horizon rig, about 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana, exploded on April 20, killing 11 workers. An estimated 500,000 gallons to 1 million gallons of crude has been spewing into the Gulf daily, and the company has failed so far to plug the busted well.

The damage to the environment was chilling on East Grand Terre Island along the Louisiana coast, where workers found birds coated in thick, black goo. Images shot by an Associated Press photographer show Brown pelicans drenched in thick oil, struggling and flailing in the surf. Anywhere between 21 million gallons and 46 million gallons of oil has spewed into the Gulf, according to government estimates.

BP’s Hayward promised Thursday that the company would clean up every drop of oil and “restore the shoreline to its original state.”

“BP will be here for a very long time. We realize this is just the beginning,” he said.

U.S. halts new drilling in Gulf

MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is blocking all new offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, a day after regulators approved a new permit for drilling in shallow water.

An e-mail Thursday from the Gulf Coast office of the Minerals Management Service says that “until further notice” no new drilling is being allowed in the Gulf, no matter the water depth. A copy of the e-mail was obtained by The Associated Press.

The announcement comes a day after the minerals agency, which oversees offshore drilling, granted a new drilling permit for a site about 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, 115 feet below the ocean surface. Environmental groups accused the administration of misleading the public by allowing work to resume in waters up to 500 feet deep while maintaining a moratorium on deepwater drilling.

Kendra Barkoff, a spokeswoman for Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, denied that the administration was placing a hold on shallow-water drilling.

“There is a six-month moratorium on deepwater drilling,” Barkoff said in an e-mail Thursday. “Shallow-water drilling may continue as long as oil and gas operations satisfy the environmental and safety requirements Secretary Salazar outlined in his report to the president and have exploration plans that meet those requirements. There is no moratorium on shallow water drilling.”

Bob Abbey, the acting director of the Minerals Management Service, announced further restrictions for offshore drilling on Wednesday night.

Abbey, who took over the minerals agency last week after the forced resignation of its previous director Elizabeth Birnbaum, said operators will be required to submit additional information about potential



From right, Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 18, 2010, before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Associated Press

risks and safety considerations before being allowed to drill. The rule applies even to those plans that have already been approved or received a waiver exempting them from detailed environmental scrutiny, Abbey said.

The new information must be submitted before any drilling of

new wells begins, Abbey said, adding that the rule should ensure that tighter safety standards and better consideration of risks are incorporated into drilling plans. The administration will establish separate requirements for deep water and shallow water exploration, Abbey said.

In a recent letter, Gulf Coast

senators urged President Barack Obama to allow shallow-water drilling to continue, arguing that it is far safer than deepwater exploration. The senators said shutting down the roughly 60 shallow-water rigs in the Gulf could cost some \$135 million in revenues and affect at least 5,000 jobs.

Separating fence

Continued from front page

"I said we need to have the fence completed, have more troops on the border and more resources" for aerial surveillance, she said. Thursday's unusual meeting between the president and the governor was a byproduct of Brewer's decision to sign a first-in-the-nation law requiring police enforcing other laws to check immigration status if they suspect someone is in the country illegally. The law also makes being in the U.S. illegally a state crime. Brewer sought the meeting and the White House accepted.

Emerging from the half-hour session, Brewer said Obama had assured her that the majority of the 1,200 National Guard troops he is sending to the U.S.-Mexico border would be going to her state.

Brewer said she and Obama, at odds over how to control illegal immigration, also agreed to try to work together on solutions. She said White House staff would visit Arizona in a couple of weeks to continue the "very cordial discussion" she had with the president.

"I believe the people of Arizona, the people of America, want our border secured," Brewer said.

Outside the White House, hundreds of protesters, as unhappy with the law as they are with Obama's inability to overhaul a system he and others say is broken, noisily greeted the Republican governor as she arrived for the meeting.

Nearly 200 people walked in a circle on the pedestrian-only portion of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House — holding signs, chanting "Jan Brewer, shame on you!" beating drums and, in the case of one

man, strumming a guitar.

The Arizona law is scheduled to take effect July 29, unless it is blocked by a court under pending legal challenges. Obama's Justice Department also is reviewing the law for possible civil rights violations, with an eye toward a possible court challenge. Obama would not discuss any possible Justice Department action in the meeting, Brewer said.

Brewer has said she signed the law because she believes Washington had failed to do its part to protect the U.S.-Mexico border.

Obama said Thursday in an interview that he understands the frustration in Arizona over the influx of illegal immigrants from Mexico but that Arizona's law is the wrong way to go about solving the problem.

"I think this puts American citizens, who ... are Hispanic, potentially in an unfair situation," he told CNN's Larry King.

Obama has been more outspoken on the issue recently. He has restated his desire to fix the system in a way that would tighten access to the border, help millions of illegal immigrants become U.S. citizens and crack down on employers who knowingly hire them. But he also has reminded advocates that Democrats only have 59 votes in the Senate — one short of the number needed to overcome GOP stalling tactics.

Some Republicans, including Brewer and Arizona Sens. Jon Kyl and John McCain, want tighter border controls first.

Obama has met with Republican senators and telephoned some privately, but Democrats have been unable to get any Republicans to help write an immigration reform bill. Some Democrats also oppose taking up immigration reform this election



Demonstrators gather in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House in Washington, Thursday, June 3, 2010, during a protests against the new Arizona immigration law. Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer met with President Barack Obama today to discuss state's new immigration law that the White House opposes.

Associated Press

year, and the legislative calendar is closing.

While lawmakers and border-state governors say more federal troops are needed to fight rising violence in their states, government data obtained by The Associated Press show it actually isn't so dangerous down there after all.

The top four big U.S. cities with the lowest violent crime rates — San Diego, Phoenix, El Paso and Austin — are in border states, according to a new FBI report. And an internal Customs and Border Protection report shows its agents face far less danger than street cops in most U.S. cities.

Brewer said in a televised interview last weekend: "We are out here on the battlefield getting the impact of all this illegal immigration, and all the crime that comes with it." But FBI crime reports for 2009 says violent crime in Arizona

declined. And violent crimes in Southwest border counties are among the lowest in the nation

per capita — they've dropped by more than 30 percent in the last two decades.

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White House defends dealmaking in political races

By CHARLES BABINGTON
and PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — The White House scrambled Thursday to explain new revelations of political dealmaking, defending attempts to steer state primary races but saying the president was unaware an aide had urged a Colorado Democrat to seek a federal job rather than run.

With Republicans denouncing “Chicago-style politics” and accusing President Barack Obama of breaking his clean-politics promises, White House aides mustered a multi-pronged response. The White House has

the right to try to avoid messy Democratic primaries, they said, but Obama leaves the details to underlings. They also offered more information about the Colorado Senate matter after being accused of trying to hush a similar Pennsylvania episode that broke wider open last week. Presidents, as leaders of their parties, “have long had an interest in ensuring that supporters didn’t run against each other in contested elections,” press secretary Robert Gibbs said. But when it comes to personally persuading a candidate to step aside, he said, Obama “is not aware of the individual circumstances.”

Political insiders say it’s naive to think that presidents and other top officials of both parties don’t sometimes try to help the strongest candidates win nominations with a minimum of cost and trouble. Nonetheless, even Obama supporters agree that the latest revelations could dent his claims to run a more transparent government and his ability to focus on issues such as the Gulf oil spill and the economy.

The episodes also fuel growing public resentment of Washington-centered, top-down politics. Voters in several states have rejected establishment candidates from both parties this year, nominating insurgents with grass-roots pedigrees.

For the second time in a week, the White House acknowledged that a top Obama associate had urged a potential Democratic Senate candidate to accept a federal position rather than challenge the president’s preferred nominee.

The first case involved an unsuccessful bid to the clear the Pennsylvania primary path for Republican-turned-Democratic Sen. Arlen Specter. The White House acknowledged last Friday that it had turned to former President Bill Clinton to urge Rep. Joe Sestak to stay in the House and accept an unpaid presidential advisory post rather than challenge Specter.

Sestak declined, and defeated Specter in last month’s Senate primary.

The White House acknowledged Thursday that it had contacted former Colorado House Speaker Andrew Romanoff about possible administration jobs in hopes that he would not challenge Sen. Michael Bennet in the state’s Aug. 10 Senate primary.

Both the White House and Romanoff said there was no job offer, and Romanoff remains in the race.

Gibbs said Romanoff had applied for a position at the U.S. Agency for International Development during the transition period before Obama took office in January 2009.

White House deputy chief of staff



In this Feb. 18, 2010, file photo, President Barack Obama is greeted by Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., as he arrives at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo. White House administration officials dangled the possibility of a job for former Colorado House Speaker Andrew Romanoff last year in hopes he would forego a challenge to Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet.

Associated Press

Jim Messina “called and e-mailed Romanoff last September to see if he was still interested in a position at USAID, or if, as had been reported, he was running for the U.S. Senate. Months earlier, the president had endorsed Sen. Michael Bennet for the Colorado seat, and Messina wanted to determine if it was possible to avoid a costly battle between two supporters,” Gibbs said.

Romanoff said he was committed to the Senate race and was “no longer interested in working for the administration, and that ended the discussion,” Gibbs said.

While hardly a full-blown scandal, the Romanoff and Sestak matters are irksome and ill-timed for Obama. More insight into the White House’s political practices — possibly stemming from government-intercepted phone calls — may come to light as former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat, goes on trial in Chicago. He is accused of scheming to profit from his ability to fill Obama’s old Senate seat, and some of the president’s top advisers from Chicago have

been subpoenaed.

The Sestak and Romanoff episodes also force the White House to seek sympathetic explanations from politicians it has opposed. And it gives Republicans an easy opening to chide Obama about his campaign pledges to rise above old-style, backroom political dealmaking.

“Just how deep does the Obama White House’s effort to invoke Chicago-style politics for the purpose of manipulating elections really go?” said Rep. Darrell Issa of California, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Offering politicians attractive alternatives to an election bid is hardly new. Obama himself engaged in it, with little fuss, when he named then-Utah Gov. and potential GOP 2012 presidential rival Jon Huntsman as ambassador to China.

Bennet, who was appointed to the Colorado Senate seat that he’s now trying to win in this year’s elections, kept his distance from the White House contacts with Romanoff.

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SC police: Black man shot to death, body dragged

SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

Associated Press Writer

NEWBERRY, South Carolina (AP) — Two men who worked at a South Carolina poultry processing plant had spent most of the day together Tuesday, hanging out late into the evening, maybe rehashing their long shifts.

By the next morning, one of the men — who was black — was dead, shot to death and then dragged behind a pickup truck for more than 10 miles (16 kilometers) down a country road. The other — a white man — was in jail, charged with murder, and authorities were investigating the death as a possible hate crime.

“We’ve not been able to rule that out,” Reggie Lloyd, chief of the State Law Enforcement Division, said Thursday. “You have to chase that down, as an angle of this.”

The FBI has been working with Lloyd’s agency to sort out what led up to the shooting death of Anthony Hill, 30. South Carolina has no state hate crime statute, and federal authorities have not decided if they will take over the case.

The body of the former South Carolina National Guard firefighter was found around 4:30 a.m. Wednesday on U.S. Highway 176 in Newberry, a town of about 11,000 in central

South Carolina.

Killed by a gunshot wound to the head, authorities said Hill’s body was tied to a pickup truck with nylon rope and dragged until it snapped, leaving his body in the roadway.

Tracing the bloody trail left by Hill’s body, deputies were led to the home of Hill’s 19-year-old co-worker, Gregory Collins. For several hours, Collins refused to come out of his mobile home, surrendering only after state police agents fired tear gas inside, Newberry County Sheriff Lee Foster said.

Collins was not armed when he was arrested, but Foster said he had an empty pistol holster on his side. No bond was set for Collins, who has been charged with murder and had his first court appearance Thursday, said Newberry County Magistrate Ron Halfacre.

Hill and Collins worked together at a Louis Rich chicken processing plant in Newberry County, authorities said. Neither man had a serious criminal record, and Lloyd says his agents are still running down a number of leads to find out how long the men knew each other, if they argued before the shooting, or if they had been drinking or using drugs.

“Everything else right now is really just

rumors,” Lloyd said.

Collins’ mobile home is tucked in a rural, wooded area near Interstate 26, far from the center of this quaint city known for its opera house and historic downtown.

On Thursday, a foot-wide dark stain was visible in the right hand lane of the asphalt roadway, a mark authorities planned to wash away later in the afternoon.

One of Collins’ neighbors described him as a quiet man who was up early for work each day.

“He was like a loner, a quiet kind of person,” Dakota Dye, 19, said Thursday, standing outside her mobile home two lots down from Collins’ property. “I kept to our business, and he kept to his.”

Standing outside the home she shared with her son in Winnsboro, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from Newberry, Hill’s mother said Thursday she has a hard time believing that her son would be the victim of a hate crime.

“I just don’t know how it goes between the races,” said Mattie Smith, 48, standing outside her home as friends and neighbors came by to comfort her. “Anthony has always been a laid-back, very mannerable young man.”



Gregory Collins, 19, signs paperwork during his first appearance in front of a magistrate to face murder charges in the shooting death of Anthony Hill, in Newberry, S.C. The shooting death of a black man whose body was dragged for several miles is being investigated as a possible hate crime after the arrest of Collins, a white man he worked with, South Carolina’s state police chief said. Associated Press

Blagojevich

Continued from front page

For one reality show, his wife went in his stead — making an impression on one potential juror, who told the judge she had seen Patti Blagojevich on TV eating a bug.

Blagojevich himself was “on some kind of reality show, too,” she said. But the judge clearly tried to steer clear of political opinions.

Some 18 months after FBI agents arrested him at his home at dawn, Blagojevich arrived at federal court, holding hands with Patti. He stepped into a gantlet of about 30 waiting cameras and reporters outside the courthouse. Of no more than 10 bystanders, three or four were vocal supporters.

“I feel great,” said Blagojevich, who denies any wrongdoing. “The truth shall set you free,” he told one well-wisher as he shook the man’s hand.

In the courtroom, he took his place at a separate defense table from his brother and co-defendant, and sat with his attorneys to size up a pool of potential jurors for his corruption trial. They



In this courtroom sketch, former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, right, listens as U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel, center, questions a potential juror for the case during jury selection in his federal corruption trial Thursday, June 3, 2010 in Chicago. Associated Press

included a math teacher, an ex-Marine and a former precinct captain who said she would ask “for guidance from my heavenly father” in deciding guilt or innocence.

U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel plans to keep the jury anonymous until after the trial. Zagel had denied a request from five news organizations, including The Associated

Press, to reverse that, saying the motion came too late because he had already told the jurors that their names would not be released until the verdict.

Federal prosecutors have 500 hours of secretly made FBI wiretap tapes in which they say Blagojevich is plainly heard saying that he wants something in return

for the Senate seat. “I want to make money,” he says in a telephone discussion of the seat with a lobbyist friend, according to an FBI affidavit. And prosecutors say he refers to it as “golden” thing that he won’t give up for nothing.

Prosecutors have also lined up numerous key witnesses, including political insiders such as Blagojevich’s former

chiefs of staff John Harris and Alonzo “Lon” Monk. Blagojevich’s attorneys have said that the recordings, if played in their entirety, would show he did not try to sell the Senate seat.

The former governor and his brother, Robert, a Nashville, Tennessee, businessman, have pleaded not guilty to charges that they conspired not only to sell or trade the Senate seat but also turn the governor’s office into a powerful machine to pressure people for campaign money and payoffs.

They deny charges they used the governor’s power over the state pursestrings in an effort to squeeze hefty campaign donations out of a racetrack owner, a highway contractor, a children’s hospital executive and even top presidential aide Rahm Emanuel, then an Illinois congressman.

Rod Blagojevich faces 24 counts including racketeering, wire fraud, attempted extortion and bribery. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 415 years in prison and fines totaling \$6 million.

German gov't nominates Wulff as next president

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
Associated Press Writer
BERLIN (AP) — Germany's government on Thursday nominated the 50-year-old governor of Lower Saxony for the nation's presidency, days after the previous head of state's surprise resignation. Chancellor Angela Merkel tapped Christian Wulff as her party's candidate to replace President Horst Koehler, who stepped down Monday after appearing to link military deployments abroad with the country's economic interests. Standing next to a smiling Wulff at a press conference at the Reichstag parliament building in Berlin, Merkel

said he would make "a wonderful future president." "I'm happy that he is willing to go this way with the people during these difficult times, during a big global financial crisis, when the future of Europe is at stake," Merkel said. Wulff is a deputy leader of Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats and is widely expected to be elected June 30 by an assembly of 1,244 state and federal lawmakers, where Merkel's coalition has a majority. The opposition Social Democrats and Green Party said they would nominate a candidate Friday. The German president has a

largely ceremonial job, but traditionally functions as the nation's moral voice. After the announcement of his nomination, Wulff thanked Merkel and her government coalition partners for their confidence in him and called the presidency "a big challenge that requires great responsibility." Wulff said he was looking forward to his new job and that he wants to reassure Germans and bring "optimism to the office during these difficult times." Wulff, 50, has been governor of Lower Saxony — a region of some 8 million people that occupies a large swath of Germany's northwest —



In this Jan. 12, 2008 file picture German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, is all smiles while then Lower Saxony's Christian Democratic top candidate Christian Wulff wave to supporters during an election campaign in Braunschweig, Germany. Current governor of Lower Saxony Christian Wulff is the favorite in the race of candidates to replace German President Horst Koehler who resigned Monday, German Dapd news agency reported Thursday June 3, 2010. Associated Press



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A trained lawyer and career politician with a clean-cut, inoffensive image, Wulff lost state elections in 1994 and 1998 to center-left rival Gerhard Schroeder, who went on to become chancellor.

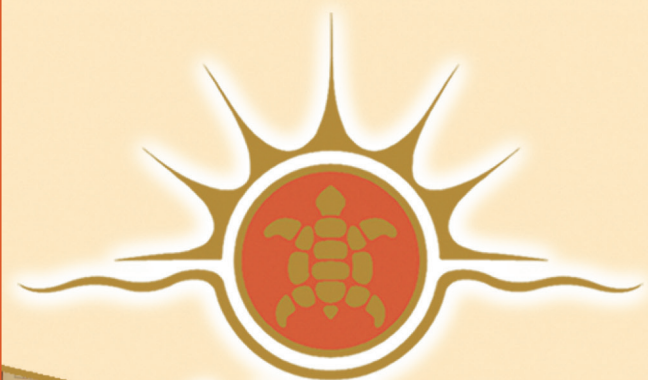
One of a generation of conservative politicians who rose to influence after the party lost power nationally in 1998, he won on the third attempt.

He was long considered a potential rival to Merkel as party leader, but has talked down his chances of ever becoming chancellor in 2008, when he said that "I lack the absolute will to power and the readiness to subordinate everything to it." Wulff is married and has two children. Koehler stepped down over what he said was unduly harsh criticism over comments on the sensitive

issue of German military's role in the world. In an interview, he argued that for a country with Germany's dependency on exports, military deployments could be "necessary ... in order to defend our interests, for example free trade routes."

That was taken by many as relating to Germany's unpopular mission in Afghanistan, although his office later said he was referring to anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia.

Merkel had declined to comment on the resignation, which came on top of a much-criticized start for her second-term government, an embarrassing state election loss in May, the euro debt crisis — complete with two unpopular rescue packages — and a prominent conservative state governor's resignation.



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Japan's Cabinet resigns en masse

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Cabinet resigned en masse Friday to clear the way for a ruling party vote to select a successor to former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who resigned two days earlier. Members of the Democratic Party of Japan will meet later Friday morning to pick a new party chief, who will almost certainly be installed as prime minister because the ruling party controls a majority in the more powerful lower house of parliament.

Former Finance Minister Naoto Kan, a straight-talker with activist roots, is widely expected to succeed Hatoyama, who quit amid plunging approval ratings and public disappointment over his broken campaign promises.

The other candidate is little-known Shinji Tarutoko, chairman of the party's environmental committee, who has the backing of some younger party members and the largest faction led by the party's No. 2, who also stepped down Wednesday.

Whoever wins the top job will face daunting choices in how to lead the world's second-largest economy, which is burdened with massive public debt, a sluggish economy

and an aging, shrinking population.

He also must quickly revive his party's tarnished image before upper house elections are held next month. The vote is seen as a referendum on the Democrats' short rule since they defeated the long-ruling conservatives in lower house elections last August, and the party's prospects look rather bleak.

Kan, 63, may be the DPJ's best hope for restoring confidence in its ability to govern and delivering a viable roadmap for the future. He is everything Hatoyama was not — decisive, outspoken and a grass-roots populist with common roots. Unlike recent prime ministers, he was not born into an elite political family.

Kan gained popularity in 1996 as health minister when he exposed a government cover-up of HIV-tainted blood products that caused thousands of hemophilia patients to contract the virus that causes AIDS. During an E-coli outbreak that hit sprout growers hard, he appeared on national television and ate sprouts to dispel rumors that they were unsafe.

Kan, along with Hatoyama, was one of several original



Japanese Finance Minister Naoto Kan is surrounded by reporters at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Wednesday, June 2, 2010. The ruling Democratic Party of Japan scrambled to find a new leader after Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama resigned Wednesday, apologizing for failing to keep a campaign promise to move a contentious U.S. military base, as his party desperately tried to boost its chances in elections next month. Kan, who has a clean and defiant image, emerged a likely successor.

Associated Press

members to launch the party that became the DPJ in September 1996 in a merger with several other small parties.

Known for speaking his mind, Kan was the first official to declare deflation in Japan last year and has been critical of the Bank of Japan for not doing enough to fight deflation.

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and Transport Minister Seiji Maehara had been considered contenders for the

party leadership, but they both announced support for Kan instead.

After the DPJ selects its new leader, the parliament's two chambers will vote Friday afternoon to install the new prime minister. His new Cabinet could be named later Friday.

The Democrats are hoping that Wednesday's resignation of Hatoyama and No. 2 Ichiro Ozawa — seen by many as the party's powerbroker — will

give it a fresh face for July's elections. Both men had been ensnared in political funding scandals.

A poor performance in the upper house elections, where half the seats are up for grabs, would not threaten the Democrats' grip on power because they command a large lower-house majority. But heavy losses would likely force the party to woo new coalition partners to ensure smoother passage of bills.

Bangladesh fire kills up to 77, injures dozens

JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press Writer

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A devastating fire raced through several apartment complexes in the Bangladeshi capital, killing as many as 77 people and injuring dozens, officials and local media reported.

Fire official Nazrul Islam said the blaze started when an electric transformer exploded late Thursday, igniting a three-story apartment building in the Najirabazar area of old Dhaka. He said “many bodies” had been recovered, but would not specify the number.

“It has caused a huge devastation, we are trying to talk to our officials at the scene to have an exact figure and details of the incident,” he told The Associated Press by phone early Friday. Local TV station Bangla Vision reported at least 77 deaths, while another station ATN Bangla reported at least 76 died in the fire.

Islam said several injured people were taken to the state-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

He said the firefighters had the blaze under control and the rescue operation was continuing.

Bangla Vision quoted unnamed fire officials as saying the fire had spread to at least 20 apartment complexes.

TV footage showed the firefighters and residents were carrying injured by tricycle rickshaws to hospitals while many relatives of the victims were wailing.

Bangla Vision said the rescue effort was being hampered since the area is crammed with buildings and roads are narrow.



People try to extinguish a fire in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, June 3, 2010. Authorities say the fire in the Bangladeshi capital has killed at least three people and injured dozens more. Fire official Abdus Salam says the blaze started late Thursday after an electric transformer exploded, igniting a three-storey apartment building.

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Turkey honors slain activists, including U.S. teen

DAVID RISING
SELCAN HACAOGU

Associated Press Writers
ISTANBUL (AP) — Thousands of mourners hailed activists killed in an Israeli commando mission as martyrs, hoisting their coffins to cheers of “God is great,” while Turkish leaders said Israel had jeopardized its relationship with its closest Muslim ally despite meeting Ankara’s demand to release the hundreds captured in the raid.

The father of the youngest of the nine activists killed — 19-year-old high school student Furkan Dogan, who had dual U.S.-Turkish citizenship — praised his son Thursday for dying in a just cause.

Ahmet Dogan told the state-run Anatolia news agency he identified his boy in the morgue and he had been shot through the forehead. Still, he said, the family was not sad because they believed Furkan had died with honor.

“I feel my son has been blessed with heaven,” he said. “I am hoping to be a father worthy of my son.”

Dogan, who was born in Troy, New York, but moved to Turkey when he was two, was to be buried in his family’s hometown of Kayseri in central Turkey on Friday. He was one of eight activists mourned at the massive funeral in Istanbul, which came as Israel rejected demands for an international panel to investigate its deadly takeover Monday of six aid ships trying to break Israel’s three-year blockade of the Gaza Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has hotly rejected calls to lift the blockade on Hamas-ruled Gaza, insisting it prevents missile attacks on Israel. The incident has increased tensions in the Mideast, especially with Turkey, an important ally of Israel. On Thursday, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan called Israel’s actions “a historic mistake.”

“Israel risks losing its most important friend in the region if it doesn’t change its mentality,” he said, adding later that “from now on we will not bow to this bullying.”

President Abdullah Gul said Israel committed “one of the biggest mistakes ever in its history.”

“Turkey will never forget this attack,” Gul said. “The relations between Israel and Turkey will never be the same again.”

At Thursday’s funeral, 10,000 people prayed outside Istanbul’s Fatih mosque before eight

Turkish and Palestinian flag-draped coffins lined up in a row. Seven Turks and American-Turkish dual citizen were honored, ranging in age Dogan, at 19, to over 60. A ninth victim, a Turkish man, was having a separate service on Friday.

“Let them do what they want, we know how to be martyrs for Palestine and Jerusalem, and that’s what we became,” said Bulent Yildirim, the head of the Islamic charity group IHH, which organized the Gaza flotilla, before mourners carried the coffins through the crowd to cars to be taken for burial.

“The whole world supports us,” he told the crowd. “We will shake the foundations of Zionism.”

Before dawn Thursday, thousands of people had flooded Istanbul’s main Taksim Square to welcome home hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists from the aid boats who had expelled. Israel, which has faced strong international criticism for the botched military operation, decided not to prosecute the activists in an effort to limit diplomatic outrage.

In all, 466 activists, including more than 50 foreigners, arrived in Istanbul early Thursday, along with Turkey’s ambassador to Israel, Oguz Celikkol.

Israel maintains the commandos opened fire as a last resort after they were attacked, and released a video showing soldiers in riot gear descending from a helicopter into a crowd of men with clubs. Three or four activists overpowered each soldier as he landed.

Israeli officials have insisted that their military is investigating the raid already and the country is capable of conducting a credible review.

“It is our standard practice after military operations, especially operations in which there have been fatalities, to conduct a prompt, professional, transparent and objective investigation in accordance with the highest international standards,” Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, however, suggested that international observers could possibly be attached to an internal Israeli probe.

Returning activists admitted fighting with the Israelis but insisted their actions were in self defense because the ships were being boarded in international waters by a military force.

“We first thought they were trying to scare us,” Yildirim said,



□ This is Nov. 6, 2008 photo made available Thursday June 3, 2010 by his family shows Furkan Dogan, the American citizen who was born in the U.S. in 1991, one of nine activists killed in Monday’s pre-dawn military takeover of six aid ships by Israeli forces in the international waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Dogan’s body was to be flown to his family’s hometown of Kayseri for burial late Thursday, June 3, 2010, the state-run Anatolia News Agency reported.

Associated Press

following his deportation from Israel. “When we started morning prayers, they began attacking from everywhere, from the boats, from the helicopters. Our friends only performed civil resistance.” Yildirim said the activists fought the Israeli commandos with chairs and sticks and seized weapons from some Israeli soldiers, but threw them into the sea. Israel says two of the seven soldiers wounded were shot with guns that had been wrested from them, while a third was stabbed. Other activists scoffed at Israeli reports of finding weapons on the boats.

“Yes we had kitchen knives, because we were on there for some days,” said Sarah Colborne, of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, after returning to

London.

She was on board the boat where the main fighting occurred.

“We needed kitchen knives to eat — those are not weapons,” she said.

Best-selling Swedish crime novelist Henning Mankell was on the bridge of the Swedish-Greek ship Sofia in the flotilla when the Israelis raided.

“After the soldiers checked the boat, one came back and said ‘we’ve found weapons,’ and then they showed my razor and box cutter,” he told reporters in Berlin.

Another Swedish activist, Mattias Gardell accused Israel of provoking the activists.

“The Israelis started shooting first,” Gardell said upon his return to Stockholm. “We had

no weapons, the Israelis had weapons.”

He said the activists could have used the weapons against the Israelis “but we chose to throw them in the water.”

U.N. ambassadors from Islamic countries issued a statement after a meeting Thursday at U.N. headquarters in New York condemning “the illegal, brutal and provocative Israeli aggression.”

The Organization of the Islamic Conference ambassadors urged U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to order an independent investigation. And they repeated their demand for an immediate end to Israel’s blockade of Gaza, which they said “is tantamount to a war crime against the Palestinian people.”

Head of large Congo human rights group found dead

PATRICE CITERA
Associated Press Writer

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — A leading Congolese human rights activist killed this week had suffered a pattern of intimidation because of his work, a senior U.N. official said Thursday, as a rights group questioned whether police were already staging a cover-up.

The body of Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, head of Voix des Sans Voix, or Voice of the Voiceless, was found in his car Wednesday in a suburb of Congo’s capital. The rights group, one of the largest in Congo, said he appeared to have been strangled.

“For more than 20 years, Chebeya Bahizire had survived many death threats, arrests, and ill treatment due to his work as a human rights

defender. He believed in the cause of human rights and was not afraid to pursue it against all odds,” Navi Pillay, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said Thursday.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed shock at Chebeya’s death, saying “his reputation as a champion of human rights earned him the respect and admiration of his compatriots and of the international community,” U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said.

The secretary-general noted that Congo’s interior minister on Thursday ordered the state security services to investigate Chebeya’s death and stressed that the investigation “should be thorough, transparent and independent, with full respect for due process and rule of law,” Okabe said at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Obama presents award to former Beatle McCartney



WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Barack Obama presented Paul McCartney with a lifetime achievement award for his contributions to popular music on Wednesday night, and the former Beatle sang the song “Michelle” with first lady Michelle Obama looking on. McCartney, 67, was given the U.S. Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song by Obama and listened to a concert of his music performed by other singers before singing some of his own songs.

“I mean getting this prize would be good enough. But getting it from this president,” McCartney said, smiling.

Obama called McCartney the most successful songwriter in history. Musicians including Stevie Wonder, the Jonas Brothers, Elvis Costello, Faith Hill, Corrine Bailey Rae and Herbie Hancock performed McCartney songs.

Obama paused to remember people in U.S. Gulf Coast communities affected by the region’s massive oil spill. “Part of what gets us through tough times is music,” Obama said as he lauded McCartney’s lengthy career.

McCartney told Obama, “You have billions of us who are rooting for you.”

McCartney took to the stage singing “Eleanor Rigby,” “Got to Get You Into My Life” and other tunes, including “Michelle,” with the U.S. first lady listening nearby.

McCartney became the third Gershwin prize recipient after Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder.

5 wildest examples of rock-star excess

LOS ANGELES — Long before Russell Brand scores a single baggie of heroin or trashes a Las Vegas hotel suite as British singer Aldous Snow in “Get Him to the Greek,” there’s been a proud and loud tradition of movies about rock-star wretched excess. After a while they almost become parodies of themselves. But some of them know just the right way to turn it up to 11:

- “Almost Famous” (2000) — Probably Cameron Crowe’s best film; certainly his funniest, sweetest and most moving. He won an Oscar for the screenplay, inspired by his own teenage years as a reporter for Rolling Stone. We see all the madness of a life on the road through the innocent eyes of Crowe’s on-screen stand-in, played by Patrick Fugit, who goes on tour with the up-and-coming band Stillwater. Just say the words “I am a golden god!” and everyone will know what you’re talking about. Crowe made it all look dangerous and cool but wistful at the same time.

- “Pink Floyd The Wall” (1982) — Inspired in part by Roger Waters’

childhood, this nightmarish look at a rock star’s descent into isolation and madness is harrowing — especially if the viewer is under the influence of some mind-altering substance, as well. As the burnt-out lead singer Pink, Bob Geldof hides in a hotel room, boozes it up and delves into painful memories of his past. Frightening animated segments suggest his inner torment. But eventually he unleashes his pent-up rage and trashes the joint in spectacular fashion, to the shock of the hapless groupie who’s followed him there.

- “The Rose” (1979) — Bette Midler tears it up as the title character, a self-aggrandizing, self-destructive rock star very clearly inspired by Janis Joplin. It’s all there: the booze and drugs, highs and lows, histrionics and reconciliations. All Rose wants to do is rest after a hard-driving life of recording and touring, but her ruthless manager (Alan Bates) won’t let her. Flashbacks reveal the road that’s led her to the verge of snapping. Midler had appeared in bit parts before



this, but “The Rose” provided her first shot at a leading role and earned her an Academy Award nomination for best actress.

- “This Is Spinal Tap” (1984) — For nearly as long as there have been rock-star movies, there have been parodies of rock-star movies. This is, of course, the mother of them all — the film that started the entire subgenre of Christopher Guest mockumentaries. With this faux verite look at Spinal Tap, the mediocre-at-best British band, director

Rob Reiner just nails the absurdity of the rock-and-roll lifestyle: the makeup and tight pants, the big hair and a tiny Stonehenge. Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer are all masters of deadpan improvisation. Too many classic lines to quote, but my favorite: “I’ve told them a hundred times: Put ‘Spinal Tap’ first and ‘Puppet Show’ last.”

- “Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story” (2007) — This hilariously over-the-top (and underappreciated) spoof is pretty much one long

example of wretched excess. John C. Reilly is a total hoot as Dewey Cox, whose early life and rise to fame bear more than a little resemblance to those of Johnny Cash. He tries to remain a wholesome Southern boy as his career takes off, but then one of his bandmates (a perfectly deadpan Tim Meadows) introduces him to one drug after another. Orgies, trashed bathrooms, adopted zoo animals and countless children by multiple wives ensue.

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Mulally: Ford Shifting Digital into High Gear

Thursday, Ford Motor Company chief executive Alan Mulally spoke about how computing power is coming to cars, how Ford wants to enable consumer electronics but wants to focus on vehicles instead, and how it wants to lead in electric cars.

Mulally said he sees some drivers play with their devices and do dangerous things like texting while driving. The best thing Ford could do for the consumer is to manage the user interface, he said, so that drivers can keep "their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road."

To do this, the company developed its "Sync" system in conjunction with Microsoft, plus the "MyFord Touch," its touchscreen method for controlling automotive features, replacing the traditional console displays.

While the system does some speech recognition now, Mulally said the company is waiting to do more until the technology improves: He doesn't want technology that might give wrong results and confuse drivers.

One difference in Ford's approach

compared with many of the other car makers was that it isn't trying to provide all the solutions, but instead works with end users' own phones and music players. By having an open architecture and APIs, Sync can support more applications, such as Pandora. Ford needs to work with the developers, though, to make sure the applications didn't interfere with the driving experience.

Mulally mentioned that Ford isn't that concerned about building a business model to sell services; instead, the company is laser-focused on building great vehicles. Car technology is changing, and Mulally is particularly bullish on electric cars. He believes that batteries are a challenge, as they need to get lighter while storing more energy, but the infrastructure is an even bigger issue. He mentioned the need for recharging stations in many more places (especially with a need to use 220V or more to make charging faster) and for a smart grid that would enable different pricing at different times.

Mulally wouldn't give a date

when he thought most cars would be electric, but said he expected Ford will be a leader in getting there.

He also spoke about other technology, such as back-up cameras, sensors that detect cars in other lanes, and that look for cross traffic when you are backing out of a parking space. Ford is focused in bringing this technology to a mass market.

Regarding the bailouts of GM and Chrysler, Mulally testified in favor of them, because if those companies had gone into bankruptcy, they would have taken the supply chain with them and perhaps turned the recession into a depression. But he did say he envisioned that it would be a short-term fix, not that the government would own those businesses going forward.

Finally, Mulally spoke about focusing on the Ford brand (divesting other brands Ford owned, phasing out Mercury, and re-emphasizing Lincoln), and noted that he was not only driving Ford cars but his competitors as well to benchmark against them.



BP trying to put a lid on the Gulf oil gusher



METAIRIE, La. — One-half of the cut and cap is done. Now comes the hard part — putting a lid on the Gulf oil gusher. BP sliced off the main pipe on the leaking oil well with giant shears Thursday in the latest bid to curtail the worst oil spill in U.S. history, but the cut was jagged, and

a looser fitting cap will be needed.

The inverted funnel-like cap slightly wider than the severed pipe will be placed over the spewing oil. A rubber seal on the inside will attempt to keep oil from escaping, though engineers acknowledge some crude will

still come out.

"We'll have to see when we get the containment cap on it just how effective it is," said Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man for the disaster.

BP PLC turned to the giant shears after a diamond-tipped saw became stuck in the pipe halfway through the job, yet another frustrating delay in the six-week-old spill. The cap could be set over the gusher as early as Thursday night.

If the cap can be put on successfully, BP will siphon the oil and gas to a tanker on the surface.

"It's an important milestone, and in some sense, it's just the beginning," BP CEO Tony Hayward said.

This latest attempt is risky because slicing away the

section of the 20-inch-wide riser removed a kink in the pipe, and could temporarily increase the flow of oil by as much as 20 percent.

"I don't think we'll know until the containment cap is seated on there," he said. "We'll have to wait and see."

Crews will also use methanol to try to prevent icylike crystals from forming on the inside of the cap. At this depth a mile underwater, the near-freezing temperatures can cause a buildup up of hydrates, which foiled the company's attempt to place a 100-ton, four-story dome over the leak about a month ago. The Deepwater Horizon rig, about 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana, exploded on April 20, killing 11 workers. An estimated 500,000 to 1 million gallons of crude has been spewing into the

Gulf daily, and the company has failed so far to plug the busted well.

The damage to the environment was chilling on East Grand Terre Island along the Louisiana coast, where workers found birds coated in thick, black goo. Images shot by an Associated Press photographer show Brown pelicans drenched in thick oil, struggling and flailing in the surf.

Anywhere between 21 million and 46 million gallons of oil has spewed into the Gulf, according to government estimates.

BP's Hayward promised Thursday that the company would clean up every drop of oil and "restore the shoreline to its original state."

"BP will be here for a very long time. We realize this is just the beginning," he said.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Ogilvy, Fowler, Rose share the lead at Memorial



Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, reacts after his tee shot at the 15th hole during the first round of the Memorial golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club Thursday, June 3, 2010, in Dublin, Ohio.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Australia's Geoff Ogilvy dropped into a three-way tie for the lead at the Memorial on Thursday, giving up the outright lead by carelessly missing a par putt inside 3 feet.

The consolation for Ogilvy was a 7-under 65 for his best start of the year and a share of the lead Thursday with 21-year-old Rickie Fowler and Justin Rose. They were two shots ahead of a group that included Phil Mickelson, who can go to No. 1 in the world with a victory at Muirfield Village, as long as Tiger Woods isn't among the top four.

Defending champion Tiger Woods overcame two early bogeys with consecutive birdies around the turn and shot an even-par 72. For Woods, a four-time winner at the Memorial, it was the first time since 2004 that he failed to break par in the opening round.

On greens that were fast and pure despite two rain delays, Ogilvy rolled in eight birdie putts to take the lead, only to a share of the lead when he stepped over a 30-inch par putt and watched it spin out of the cup on his 17th hole.

"I putted very well," Ogilvy said with a wry smile before adding, "except for one little blip."

Woods will be playing again Friday with the cut in question. He failed to make birdie on any of the par 5s and beyond a few errant tee shots, he was off by some 30 and 40 feet with wedges in his hand on several holes. "They're perfect sand wedge numbers, but I can't hit a sand wedge because it's going to rip (spin)," Woods said. "I had to hit little wedges and I don't have the feel for it yet. I hit terrible shots. That's just the way it goes."

Mickelson has never come particularly close to winning the Memorial, although it is among those he would dearly love to win. Nicklaus even joked

Schiavone to meet Stosur in French final

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Francesca Schiavone will play Samantha Stosur in Saturday's French Open final, the latest surprise in a week full of them at Roland Garros. The 17th-seeded Schiavone became the first Italian woman to reach a major final when opponent Elena Dementieva unexpectedly retired from their semifinal with a left calf injury after losing the first set 7-6 (3) on Thursday.

No. 7 Stosur then became the first Australian woman in 30 years to reach a Grand Slam final by drubbing former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic 6-1, 6-2.

Both Schiavone and Stosur are first-time Grand Slam finalists.

"We're both out here to enjoy it," Stosur said. "We're both going to be excited. It's a great opportunity for both of us."



Australia's Samantha Stosur reacts after defeating Serbia's Jelena Jankovic during a semifinal match for the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Associated Press

Stosur won with the same big serve and booming forehand that helped her upset four-time French Open champion Justine Henin and 12-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams this week.

The two semifinals lasted barely two hours between them, and the first match ended abruptly. After Dementieva lost the first set, she walked up to Schiavone, who was sitting in her changeover chair, and extended a hand in

concession.

"For the moment, I don't understand what's going on," Schiavone said.

The Italian then fell to her knees to kiss the court in a reprise of her quarterfinal celebration, and rose with a clay-caked grin.

How did the clay taste?

"It was good," Schiavone said. "So good."

The 29-year-old Schiavone had never previously advanced beyond the quarterfinals in a Grand Slam. "I've already made history for my country," she said. "In Italy, also, they are very happy, and is time to enjoy for us, for everybody."

While Italians celebrated, Dementieva sobbed before heading for the exit. It's the first time in the Open era that a woman retired in a semifinal or final at Roland Garros.

Continued on page 15

with him Wednesday that a golfer's resume is not complete without a victory at Muirfield Village, spinning a phrase that Bobby Jones once said about St. Andrews.

"I told Jack yesterday it would really mean a lot to me to win his tournament," Mickelson said. "This golf course is wonderful."

Mickelson played bogey-free for his 67, a refreshing change from last week when he missed the cut at the Colonial. He made up ground toward the end of his round with two simple birdies on the par 5s at No. 5 and No. 7, sandwiched around a 10-foot birdie on the sixth.

"The soft greens allow you to attack a lot of the pins," Mickelson said. "It played a lot longer because the ball wasn't rolling."

Continued on page 14

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Stanley Cup

Flyers beat Blackhawks 4-3 in OT in Game 3

DAN GELSTON,
AP Sports Writer
PHILADELPHIA (AP) —
Claude Giroux scored 5:59 into overtime to give the Philadelphia Flyers a 4-3 victory over Chicago in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup finals Wednesday, cutting the Blackhawks' series lead to 2-1. Game 4 is Friday night in Philadelphia.

Giroux scored from a deflection off Matt Carle's pass to beat Antti Niemi to decide the third straight one-goal win of the series.

"I tried to get a stick on it, and it just trickled in," Giroux said. "Our line started playing well, so anytime your line's going you just play better I think. The whole team just showed up tonight, and we really wanted that win.

"Desperation was the key word, I think. It's almost do or die."

The Blackhawks, trying to win their first Stanley Cup title since 1961, ended a seven-game winning streak and a seven-game road winning streak.

Flyers coach Peter Laviolette said Giroux, who has nine postseason

goals, was loose all day.

"He was smiling all day, came to the arena and had a great game. Talented kid," he said.

Giroux scored moments after Simon Gagne thought he scored the winner, only to have replay officials rule the puck didn't cross the goal line.

It was the second time a replay was needed to determine a Flyers' goal in their first Stanley Cup home game since 1997.

Scott Hartnell had a no-goal overturned by replay to spark the Flyers to their first Cup win since 1987. Danny Briere and Ville Leino also scored for the Flyers, helping them win a game they desperately needed to avoid their second 3-0 hole of the playoffs. Michael Leighton made 24 saves for the Flyers.

Giroux's goal was the only shot in overtime for the Flyers. Niemi stopped 28 shots in the third straight thriller in the series.

Duncan Keith, Brent Sopel and Patrick Kane scored for the Blackhawks.

The Flyers heard the goal horn



Philadelphia Flyers right wing Claude Giroux (28) watches his game-winning goal against Chicago Blackhawks goalie Antti Niemi (31), of Finland, bounce back out of the net in overtime of Game 3 of the NHL Stanley Cup hockey finals Wednesday, June 2, 2010, in Philadelphia. The Flyers won 4-3. The Blackhawks lead the series 2-1.

Associated Press

MLS Roundup

Earthquakes salvage draw against Crew

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — Chris Wondolowski's blast from the top of the box in the 79th minute saw the San Jose Earthquakes salvage a 2-2 home draw against Columbus Crew in Major League Soccer on Wednesday. It was Wondolowski's sixth goal of the season, putting him equal third in the rankings behind Los Angeles' Edson Buddle (nine) and Toronto's Dwayne De Rosario (eight). Columbus opened the scoring in the sixth minute when Eddie Gaven headed in a Jason Garey corner. That advantage only lasted a minute before Arturo Alvarez equalized for San Jose, set up by Andre Luiz. Chad Marshall put the Crew back

in front in the 70th minute before Wondolowski again tied it up.

Red Bulls 2, Dynamo 1

In Harrison, Juan Pablo Angel scored with seconds remaining in stoppage time to give New York a dramatic win over Houston, ending a four-game losing streak.

The former Aston Villa frontman's goal was his sixth of the season and came from a direct free kick in the fourth minute of added time. It sailed past lunging Houston goalkeeper Pat Onstad.

Sinisa Ubiparipovic gave the Red Bulls — who are yet to play a draw in 11 games — a 1-0 lead in the 15th minute off a pass from the outside from Chris Albright.

Houston equalized in the 65th minute through captain Brian Ching.



San Jose Earthquakes' Chris Wondolowski, top, is hugged after scoring by teammates Brandon McDonald, center, and Steven Beitashour during the second half of a MLS soccer game in Santa Clara, Calif., Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

Associated Press

twice on one goal midway through the second period to go up 2-1.

Chris Pronger's power-play slap shot was deflected by Hartnell, trickled through Niemi and eked past the red line. Blackhawks defenseman Niklas Hjalmarsen diving stab at the puck cleared it back onto the ice as the goal horn sounded.

Flyers fans were irate over the blown call as play continued for another 1:42 even as the red light spun like a siren light.

When play stopped, officials reviewed the play. Flyers fans howled in delight and coach Peter Laviolette watched stern-faced as numerous replays on the big screen showed, in fact, the goal was good.

Referee Bill McCreary skated on the ice and declared, "Upon further review, we have a good goal."

It seemed the fortuitous type of goal that would shift for good all the momentum toward the Orange and Black.

But Sopel blasted a shot past Leighton from inside the point to make it 2-2 — a shot the goalie likely never saw because of an ill-timed screen by Flyers defenseman Lukas Krajicek who was standing in front of him.

Chicago and Philadelphia swapped goals 20 seconds apart to make it 3-3 early in the third. Kane was all alone on a breakaway when he beat Leighton stick side for his first goal of the Stanley Cup final and Chicago's first lead, 3-2.

Leino revived a suddenly hushed crowd when his rebound off Giroux's shot tied it 3-3.

The Flyers seemed determined to win it in regulation and pounded Niemi in the third. He stopped 14 of 15 shots.

The Flyers struck first on Briere's 11th goal of the postseason that simply left mouths agape. Braydon Coburn's shot bounced off Niemi's mitt, Hartnell made a blind backward pass to Briere who flipped a shot into the open net to make it 1-0.

Armstrong climbs to third at Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, Luxembourg (AP) — Lance Armstrong couldn't hide his satisfaction from lying third overall two days into the Tour of Luxembourg on Thursday.

What made Armstrong more happy was his form than his placing.

"I can't lie, there were some guys sitting up on the final little climb there, five kilometers from the finish and other guys riding off the front, attacking, and I made it across there relatively easily, which is a good sign," the 38-year-old Armstrong said. "It's been a very long time since I've been able to do that."

Armstrong's RadioShack team worked hard to catch three breakaway riders about 15 kilometers from the finish of the 180-kilometer ride from Luxembourg to Hesperange won by Giovanni Visconti of Italy. Armstrong was 50th, credited with the same time as Visconti. After the first stage and Wednesday's prologue, Armstrong trails race leader Cyril Lemoine of France by one second. Armstrong's teammate Gregory Rast of Switzerland was second with the same time as Lemoine. Armstrong, whose season has

been hampered by illness and last month's crash on the Tour of California, is using the Tour of Luxembourg as part of his preparations for the Tour de France. He will next race the Tour of Switzerland in order to make up for the racing days he missed this year.

"The ambition is to be making progress, avoid problems, stay on the good way for the Tour," Armstrong said. "This race is awfully technical in terms of the amount of turns, hundreds of turns and climbs and wind. The wind is hard to predict. If you're not from here which of course we're not, it's sometimes confusing."

Armstrong crashed out of the Tour of California on May 20, hurting his elbow and sustaining a cut under his left eye. He still has some lingering effects but said he surprised himself with his strong performance in the short but demanding climbs on Thursday.

"(I) just (want to) finish every race and avoid the accidents that I've had over the last two years. Just day by day," Armstrong said. Armstrong, who broke his collarbone last year in his first comeback season, was forced to withdraw from Milan-San Remo in March, citing gastroenteritis,

and pulled out from the Circuit de la Sarthe with a stomach illness.

On Thursday, early breakaway riders Anthony Charteau, Johnny Hoogerland and Morten Knudsen built up a lead of six minutes before RadioShack started the chase 50 kilometers from the finish.

Armstrong said his team worked hard because it was important to stay upfront and avoid a potential crash.

"And secondly I think we feel like we can win the race, we have a couple of guys who can win the overall," Armstrong said.

The Tour of Luxembourg is Armstrong's first race since his

former U.S. Postal teammate Floyd Landis admitted to doping throughout his career and alleged that Armstrong was involved too.

Armstrong was angered by a reporter asking him if had taken EPO during his career and if he tried to bribe an International Cycling Union official following an alleged positive test.

"How many times would I have to answer the same question?" replied Armstrong. "The answer has not changed. Don't ask me another stupid question like that."

Friday's second stage is a 203-kilometer hilly ride between Schiffange and Differdange.



U.S. Lance Armstrong of the Radioshack team competes during the first race of the Tour de Luxembourg in Luxembourg, Thursday June 3, 2010.
Associated Press

Continued from page 12



It was a very fun day and a lot of good scoring today." Rose began pouring it birdies not long after a downpour that soaked the course. He birdied six of his last 10 holes to get his name atop the leaderboard, and no one could catch him until the afternoon.

First came Fowler and a blazing stretch of holes on the front nine. After a bogey on the third, Fowler ran off three straight birdies, then holed a wedge for eagle on the par-5 seventh and birdied the eighth hole to get into the mix.

Then it was Ogilvy's turn. He finished the back nine with a birdie on the 18th, where the pin was cut in the front of the green. On his next hole, from a deep bunker right of the fairway,

he hit 8-iron to a back pin, 12 feet away for what he called his best birdie of the day.

"It was nice to hole the putts," Ogilvy said. "If anything has been missing from my game the last month or two it's been poor putting."

Ogilvy noticed the low scores when he arrived at the course. Along with Rose at 65, Mickelson was joined by Andres Romero of Argentina, Rory Sabbatini and Michael Letzig, who last year played the final round with Woods and saw his 65 to win.

"It was definitely a day to make some birdies," Ogilvy said. "You want to take advantage of a day like today because this course generally won't get any easier during the week. It does give you a few chances, and it's nice to take them, for sure."

As for that miss on 17? "Just one of those things," he shrugged. "It happens to you two or three times a

year." It happened on the par-3 eighth, when Ogilvy was at 8 under and had a birdie putt just inside 15 feet. He ran it 30 inches by the cup, and without marking the ball, stepped over it and saw it spin in and out of hole.

"It's easier when you miss a 2-foot and it takes you back to 7 under," he said.

Woods went long of the first green for a bogey, and dropped another shot on the sixth when his approach from the left rough hit a sprinkler just short of the green and bounced over the putting surface and into the gallery.

Consecutive birdies around the turn brought him back to even as he headed to the par-5 11th, but with a wedge in hand, he went some 40 feet beyond the pin and had to make a 5-foot putt for par. He didn't make birdie the rest of the day, and didn't have that many good chances at them.

"If I take care of the par 5s, I'm right there," he said.



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NL Roundup

Carpenter too good for Reds as usual

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis pitcher Chris Carpenter beat Cincinnati for the eighth straight start, steering the Cardinals to a 4-1 win over the Reds on Wednesday, tying the teams for top place in the National League Central division.

Carpenter (7-1) has a 1.09 ERA during the eight-game winning streak that dates to 2006.

Matt Holliday homered and Skip Schumaker, Ryan Ludwick and Brendan Ryan all had two hits and an RBI for the Cardinals. Holliday hit only his second homer in St. Louis this season.

Cincinnati rookie Sam LeCure (1-1) allowed three runs in 5 1-3 innings in his second career start. Braves 2, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Omar Infante, replacing the injured Chipper

Jones, lined a two-out, run-scoring single in the eighth inning to give Atlanta victory over Philadelphia and its eighth straight win.

The Braves finished off a three-game sweep of the defending NL champions and increased their lead in the East division to 2½ games.

Atlanta starter Derek Lowe (8-4) went eight innings, allowing one run. Billy Wagner worked the ninth for his ninth save.

Philadelphia's Jose Contreras (2-2) took the loss. The Phillies have failed to score more than three runs in a game while losing nine of their last 11, including four straight.

Jones left in the fifth inning with an injured finger.

Padres 5, Mets 1, 11 innings

In San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez hit a grand slam in the 11th inning to lift San Diego over New York.

It was the third career grand slam and second career game-winning home run for the All-Star first baseman, coming off Raul Valdes (2-2).

In the bottom of the 11th, Padres pitcher Jon Garland laid down a bunt to get on base, then Jerry Hairston Jr. singled and David Eckstein was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Gonzalez then homered into the left-field seats.

The Mets wasted a second straight strong performance by Johan Santana, who has thrown 15 straight scoreless innings in his past two starts but only two no-decisions.



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Chris Carpenter throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday, June 2, 2010, in St. Louis. Associated Press

New York closer Francisco Rodriguez was one strike away from saving a 1-0 win when Eckstein singled up the middle to bring in Tony Gwynn Jr. from second with the tying run.

San Diego's Ryan Webb (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Giants 4, Rockies 1

In San Francisco, Aaron Rowand hit a go-ahead two-run double in the fifth inning to help San Francisco down Colorado.

The Giants again backed starter Matt Cain (4-4) with enough offense to avoid a sweep. In his previous start, he pitched a one-hitter.

Pablo Sandoval added an RBI double and Bengie Molina singled in a run against Jeff

Francis (1-2) in the sixth for the Giants, who were held to one total run over the first two games of the series.

Troy Tulowitzki homered for Colorado, which had its season-best four-game road winning streak snapped.

Dodgers 1, Diamondbacks 0, 14 innings

In Los Angeles, Garret Anderson hit an RBI single with two outs in the 14th inning as Los Angeles handed Arizona its 10th straight loss.

A day after the Dodgers won 1-0 on Matt Kemp's home run in the 10th, Los Angeles won another pitchers' duel. Kemp led off the 14th with a single and then scored on Anderson's hit.

It was the Rockies' fifth straight

French Open

Continued from page 12

The Russian said she suffered a tear in her calf in the second round, and she nearly retired during a match last week.

"It was very painful to even walk," Dementieva said. "It was a bit too much. I couldn't really move on the court."

The second match was even shorter than the first, lasting only an hour. Stosur became the first Australian woman to reach a Grand Slam final since Wendy Turnbull, the runner-up at the 1980 Australian Open.

"I can't believe I'm here," Stosur told the crowd after the match. "It wasn't easy to get here. I'm very pleased."

She began the semifinal swinging with the same confidence she showed in her earlier upsets, and after falling behind 2-0 in the second set, she swept the final six games. Stosur hit seven aces, lost only six points on her first serve and doubled the overmatched Jankovic in winners, 18-9.

"She's a strong girl," Jankovic said. "You can see by looking at her physically. She can hit pretty big, and she has one of the strongest serves in the women's game."

Long regarded as a doubles



Italy's Francesca Schiavone kisses the clay after Russia's Elena Dementieva retired in their semifinal match for the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, June 3, 2010. Associated Press

Associated Press

specialist, Stosur cracked the top 10 for the first time last month. She's now 6-19 against top-five opponents — and 2-0 this week. Her 20-2 record this year on clay is the best on the women's tour.

The first semifinal was over in 69 minutes, and the ending came as a surprise. Schiavone said she was unaware of any injury, and Dementieva didn't seek treatment from a trainer during the set.

"I had seen the trainer for so many hours before the match," Dementieva said. "I don't think they could do something else that could really help me at that point."

She said she likely would have retired even if she had won the first set.

"It is disappointing to get injured and not use this chance to get further," she said. "But what can I do? I cannot change anything."

Seeded fifth, Dementieva was seeking her first Grand Slam title playing in her 46th major event. She said might be forced to skip Wimbledon this month. Schiavone rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win the tiebreaker. Each player lost serve only once in the set, but Dementieva had twice as many errors, 24-12, and double-faulted four times.

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AL Roundup

Botched call costs pitcher perfect game

DETROIT (AP) — A botched umpiring call with two outs in the ninth inning cost Detroit pitcher Armando Galarraga a perfect game Wednesday as the Tigers beat the Cleveland Indians 3-0. Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera fielded Jason Donald's grounder and threw to Galarraga covering the bag. The ball was there in time, and all of Comerica Park was ready to celebrate one of baseball's rarest feats, until umpire Jim Joyce emphatically signaled safe.

Replays showed Donald was out, and the veteran umpire later tearfully apologized to Galarraga for robbing him of a perfect game.

Cleveland starter Fausto Carmona (4-4) gave up nine hits. Rays 7, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, David Price became the American League's first eight-game winner, guiding Tampa Bay to victory over Toronto.

Price (8-2), who has won six of his past seven decisions, allowed no earned runs in eight innings,

walking none.

Carl Crawford hit a grand slam and the Rays rallied in the ninth inning again. On Tuesday they came from 5-3 down in the ninth to win 7-6.

Red Sox 6, Athletics 4

In Boston, David Ortiz hit a two-run homer to help Boston rally for the second straight game, beating Oakland.

One night after scoring nine straight runs to overcome a 4-0 deficit, the Red Sox spotted the A's three runs in the top of the first and then scored the next six. Kevin Youkilis had a two-run single in the first inning, then Ortiz made it 4-3 in the fifth with a drive down the right-field line.

Boston starter Daisuke Matsuzaka (4-2) walked none and struck out seven after a shaky start. He gave up back-to-back doubles to Daric Barton and Ryan Sweeney before Kurt Suzuki's two-run homer in the first gave Oakland a 3-0 lead.

A's starter Ben Sheets (2-4) took the loss.

Mariners 2, Twins 1, 10 innings

In Seattle, Ryan Langerhans scored from second base on an infield single by Ichiro Suzuki with two outs in the bottom of the 10th as Seattle won its first extra-inning game of the season, edging Minnesota.

Just hours after Ken Griffey Jr. announced



Cleveland Indians' Jason Donald steps on first base as Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga takes the throw during a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, June 3, 2010. Umpire Jim Joyce emphatically signaled safe when Donald clearly didn't beat a throw to first base for what would've been the last out in Armando Galarraga's perfect game for the Detroit Tigers, setting off a chorus of groans and boos that echoed in Comerica Park.

Associated Press

his sudden retirement, another contender for greatest ever Mariner came through.

On the 11th pitch of the at-bat against Twins reliever Jose Mijares, Suzuki hit a ground ball up the middle. Matt Tolbert made a diving stop and attempted to force out Josh Wilson at second base. But his flip to shortstop J.J. Hardy was late and Langerhans rounded third and scored easily.

Rangers 9, White Sox 5

In Chicago, Matt Treanor homered and drove in a career-high four runs as Texas defeated Chicago.

Treanor capped a three-run first with a two-run double, and led off the third with a homer. He was also robbed in the sixth when White Sox right fielder Carlos Quentin raced back for a lunging catch on his sacrifice fly.

The Rangers won despite losing Vladimir Guerrero to an eye injury during batting practice. The Rangers said the eight-time All-Star had "significant swelling," but X-rays showed no structural damage.

Even without its best hitter, Texas still managed to pound Gavin Floyd (2-6). Angels 7, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Torii Hunter homered and drove in three runs to help Los Angeles down Kansas City.

Hunter had a two-run single off Kyle Davies

(4-4) in the first inning and added his eighth homer in the seventh. Bobby Abreu hit his 500th career double and the Angels had 14 hits to beat Kansas City for the 11th time in 13 games over two seasons.

L.A. starter Scott Kazmir (4-5) bounced back from a rocky previous start, helping the Angels stay close to the AL West lead after a ragged start to the season.

Yankees 9, Orioles 1

In New York, Nick Swisher and Curtis Granderson hit two-run doubles in the second inning as New York handed Baltimore its seventh straight loss.

Robinson Cano hit a two-run homer in the seventh and ran his hitting streak to 16 games for New York, which had 14 hits. Catcher Jorge Posada returned to the lineup after sitting out since May 16 with a broken bone in his right foot. Fielding a nearly first-choice lineup for the first time in weeks, the Yankees pounced on Brad Beresegen (3-4) for six runs in 2 1-3 innings and beat Baltimore for the seventh straight time.

In other AL games it was Yankees 9, Baltimore 1; Detroit 3, Cleveland 0; Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 3; Boston 6, Oakland 4; L.A. Angels 7, Kansas City 2; Texas 9, Chicago White Sox 5; and Seattle 2, Minnesota 1, 10 innings.



Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga (58) looks at first base umpire Jim Joyce (partially obscured) who called Cleveland Indians' Jason Donald safe in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Galarraga lost his bid for a perfect game with two outs in the ninth inning on the disputed call at first base. Detroit won 3-0.

Associated Press.

MLB will not reverse ump's blown call

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig won't reverse an umpire's admitted botched call that cost Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga a perfect game.

Selig said on Thursday that MLB will look at expanded video replay and umpiring, but didn't specifically address umpire Jim Joyce's bad call on Wednesday.

A baseball official familiar with the decision confirmed to The Associated Press that the call was not being reversed. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because that element was not included in Selig's statement.

Injection of 50 million dollars
Valero to reopen on September 1, 2010

ORANJESTAD — Officials with the Valero Aruba Refinery announced today that maintenance would soon begin at the refinery with the aim of potentially restarting the refinery later this year, unless economic conditions deteriorate.

Continued on page 5

Tonight June 4 and Sunday June 6
Izaline Callister live in concert in Cas di Cultura

Popular Caribbean Artist received at the airport last night

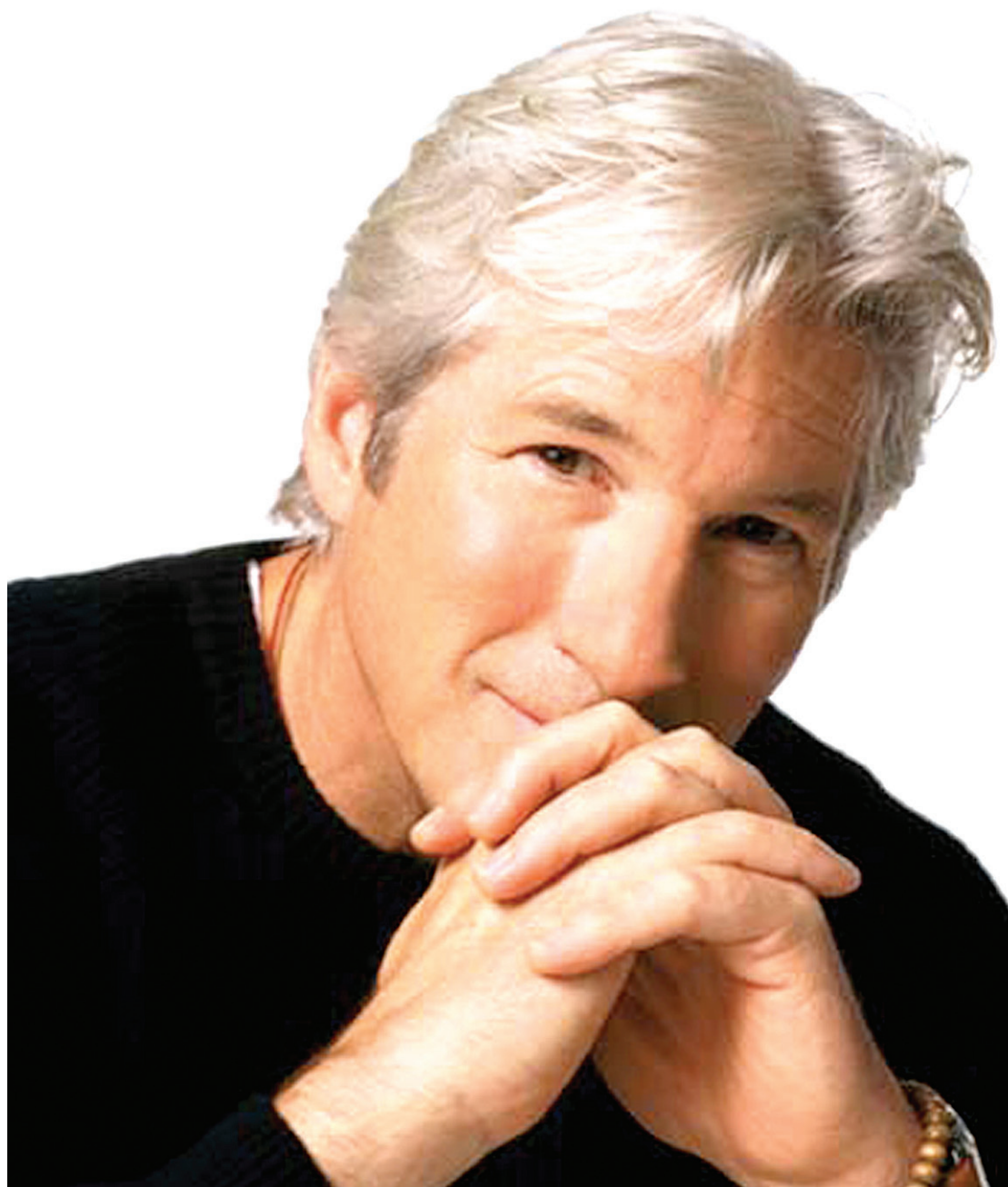


ORANJESTAD - Izaline Callister, winner of the Edison Award 2009 and hit performer of the 2009 Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival on Aruba, can be seen live in concert on the stage of Cas di Cultura this coming weekend.

Continued on page 8

Richard Gere starrer 'Hachiko' to open Aruba fest Aruba Film Festival kicks off tonight

Island's inaugural event will close with 'Cyrus'



ORANJESTAD - Richard Gere starrer "Hachiko" by Lasse Halstrom will kick off the inaugural Aruba Film Festival on June 4. Fest, which unveiled its line up on Thursday, wraps on June 11 with Fox Searchlight comedy "Cyrus," helmed by Jay and Mark Duplass and starring John C. Reilly, Jonah Hill, Marisa Tomei and Catherine Keener.

Fest will showcase 25 pics from 16 countries ranging from Hindi musical comedy "Three Idiots" to Dutch drama "Amsterdam" and English horror pic "Black Death" by Christopher Smith.

Latter two pics as well as "Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang" will have their international premieres at the fest.

Latino pics include Guillermo Arriaga's "The Burning Plain," Diego Luna's "Abel" and Venezuelan Haik Gazarian's war drama "Venezzia."

As previously announced, Gere will receive a Golden Aruba humanitarian award and participate in a panel with helmer Bernardo Bertolucci, who will receive a Golden Aruba for outstanding achievement in film.

and thesp Patricia Clarkson. Fest is backed by government funding and sponsor donations and is organized by Aruba Film Prods. Italian producer Giuseppe Cioccarelli and local filmmaker Jonathan Vieira are fest producers. Claudio Masenza is artistic director.

Aruba Festival films are: 3 Idiots, Rajkumar Hirani, India; Abel, Diego Luna, U.S.; Amsterdam, Ivo van Hove, Netherlands; A NY Thing, Oliver Lecot, U.S.; Barry Munday, Chris D'Arienzo, U.S.; Black Death, Christopher Smith, U.K.; Boy Ecury, Frans Weisz, Netherlands; Cairo Time, Ruba Nadda, Canada/Ireland/Egypt; Christina, Larry Brand, U.S.; Cyrus, Jay and Mark Duplass, U.S.; Delhi 6, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, India; The Secrets in Their Eyes, Juan Jose Campanella, Argentina/Spain; Hachiko, Lasse Hallstrom, U.S.; Happy Family, Gabriele Salvatores, Italy; Holy Rollers, Kevin Asch, U.S.; I Travel Because I Have to, I Come Back Because I Love You, Karim Ainouz, Brazil; Lucky Country, Kriv Stenders, Australia; Loose Cannons, Ferzan Ozpetek, Italy; My Queen Karo, Dorothee van den Berghe, Netherlands/Belgium; Nanny MacPhee and the Big Bang, Susanna White, U.K./France/U.S.; Penso che un sogno cosi, Marco De Luca, Italy; A Question of the Heart, Francesca Archibugi, Italy; Sell Out, Yeo Joon Han, Malaysia; The Burning Plain, Guillermo Arriaga, U.S./Mexico; Venezia, Haik Gazarian, Venezuela.

Aside from Gere and Bertolucci, other guests making the trek to the Caribbean island, 17 miles off the coast of Venezuela, include Arriaga, Martin Scorsese's long-time editor Thelma Schoonmaker



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The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.**

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Sperb Wente/Papiamento golf tournament

Donation for Autism Foundation

ORANJESTAD - Proclaimed as the 'Best Wente Vineyards/ Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament ever', the 2010 edition of this annual golfing event had a fantastic finale this past week when a cheque of AWG. 7.500,- was handed over to the Fundacion Autismo di Aruba. Representatives Monique Kuiperi, Tasha Britten and Thaisse Erasmus were very happy when Martrude Rutgers of the Arion Wine Company, representative on the island of Wente wines, donated the cheque to their foundation.

for their continued support, which makes it possible to hand the proceeds to a worthwhile charity like the FAA on the island. These sponsors were AMC Unicon, Aruba Services Agency Partners, Aruba Bank, BSL Laundry, Deloitte, Dufry, Elmar, FAST Delivery, Flora, Fiji Water, Hugo Boss, Ling & Sons, Nagico Insurance, Toyota, Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland in Aruba and Willy's Pool Service as well as main sponsors Wente Vineyards and Papiamento Restaurant.



The Fundacion Autismo di Aruba's (FAA) main aim is to increase knowledge and awareness of the illness, but it also assists parents and children who need support in many ways. Recently the foundation organized a very successful and most informative symposium with renowned speakers, all experts in their fields.

The Wente Vineyards/ Papiamento Restaurant golf tournament was held last April; it was the sixth event at which 5th generation Wente owner Eric Wente was present. An excellent golfer himself, Eric always greatly enjoys 'his' tournament and this year was no exception.

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Café the Plaza is gearing up for a fantastic Soccer World Cup

ORANJESTAD - Café the Plaza is getting ready for a fantastic Soccer World Cup series. The popular café in the Renaissance Marketplace is already getting decked out in the colors orange, red, white and blue: the colors of the House of Orange and the Dutch national flag. A large group of soccer fans always lets its rowdy presence be known there during important matches and this year will be no exception. The Dutch national team starts its World Cup series in South America on June 14 with an early morning match (early for Aruba) against Denmark. On June 19 the consecutive match against Japan takes place, also at 7.30 am; the third match in the poule is against strong Cameroon at 14.30 pm on June 24. A CD with the latest World Cup hits will be played during matches, but old-time favorites can also be heard



over and over again. A huge Balashi score board on the back wall of Café the Plaza shows the World Cup's progress. The customary game betting has already started: for AWG. 25,-- one can participate. The winner gets AWG. 800,--, second best gets AWG. 400,-- and the third prize is AWG. 200,--. Café the Plaza will of course be open for the two early morning

matches on June 14 and 19. From 6.30 am on breakfast, sandwiches and snacks will be available. Hopefully the Dutch national team will continue to do well; expectations are high, in Holland as well as on Aruba. Café the Plaza's team is ready. Their slogan: if you haven't seen the Soccer World Cup matches at Café the Plaza, you haven't seen it at all!

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Injection of 50 million dollars

Valero to reopen on September 1, 2010

ORANJESTAD—Officials with the Valero Aruba Refinery announced today that maintenance would soon begin at the refinery with the aim of potentially restarting the refinery later this year, unless economic conditions deteriorate. Valero announced a 50 million dollar injection in the turnaround of its Aruba refinery, to get it ready for refining by September 1, 2010. This news was delivered personally by Valero executives Executive Vice President Kim Bowers, Regional Vice President Martin Parish, Executive Director of Media Relations Bill Day and Vice President/General Manager of Valero Aruba, Raymond Buckley. The announcement came after a meeting with Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Utilities Mike de Meza.

The news was extremely well received by especially the Valero employees and also the thousands of contractors who were laid off last year, when Valero shut down operations due to economic and financial difficulties.

The refinery was temporarily shut down for economic reasons in July 2009. Since that time, employees have remained on the payrolls while Valero has considered its strategic options for the refinery. Those considerations will continue, but economic conditions have improved to the point where restarting and operating the refinery is possible.

Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister de Meza worked tirelessly since before accepting the task of running the government of Aruba in 2009, to convince Valero not to close the refinery completely and not to terminate the work relations with its personnel, some 650 people. The negotiations went on for months, and in early of 2010 reached a Memorandum of Understanding, that the government will change the fiscal regime, settle all tax



disputes with the condition that Valero would hold on to the personnel until June. The period would be used for Valero to look for a buyer or strategic partners in order to participate successfully in the world commerce of refining, which has been under major pressure since 2008. The MoU was to be formalized in a Settlement Agreement that required Parliamentary approval. This took place last Saturday, after an 18-hour session. The approval means the government is legally entitled to settle the tax disputes between Valero and Aruba, with a one-time payment of 210 million florins to the public coffers. Moreover, it determines a new fiscal regime for the refinery, including a 7 percent profit tax margin at a minimum of 10 million dollars per year if the refinery is operated by Valero, or 15 million dollar per year minimum if operated by another company. Moreover, the refinery will start paying property taxes at a value of 1.2 million florins a year, something that never happened in the 90 year history of the refinery.

Valero's intention was to close down the refinery completely by December, after its shutdown in July of last year. The new Government said it was necessary to offer Valero the fiscal security it needs to reconsider its decision or even to make the refinery more attractive to sell to other operators. Other options are being discussed, that could lengthen the life of the operation here, under the cover of cooperation agreements

between Valero and other companies, such as Pacific Rubiales from Colombia, Pemex or even PDVSA from Venezuela.

The settlement agreement on its own was not a guarantee that the refinery would open, but it was a guarantee that Valero would have not fired all its personnel back in December. The company showed good will and held on to its staff, despite the fact the refinery was shut down for almost a year now. The settlement agreement moreover, opens up the perspective for continuance, something that would have not been the case without such. "Without the deal, Valero would have packed up a long time ago. Now the company has been assured of a fiscal stability, something that it struggled with during the previous government," Eman said during the meeting.

In fact, Prime Minister Eman and Minister de Meza showed in various documents that Valero has shown many overtures to Aruba since 2006 to 2008, expressing willingness to forego the tax holiday that will end at the end of 2011, in return for fiscal stability. Valero was particularly concerned on the introduction of Value Added Tax, BBO, on export, as this has eroded the competitive position of the refinery in a world economy that was already showing signs of crisis. The government then stood strong, and the difference in opinion was taken to the arbitrary court in Holland. The decision was still pending, when Aruba's legal advisor in the case expressed

that a settlement could be a good solution as there is no guarantee whether Aruba will win or lose. For Eman it went much further than that. A dispute in court is not a good basis for negotiations and good will, he said. It would have been difficult to expect Valero to hold on to its personnel, if on the other hand, Aruba insists on what the previous government considered its 'fair share,' and obviously being disputed by Valero. The difference of 79 million that Aruba is now foregoing from its original demand is considered a major achievement, "since we ran the risk of getting nothing." Earlier this week, Johannes 'Boy' Anthony, leader of the union representing refinery employees, IOWUA said he was happy the refinery had a chance with the approval of the settlement agreement. "My priority is for the refinery to remain open, for us and for the contractors. Many seem to forget about the thousand of contractors, fathers and mothers who were left without a job." In fact, Anthony emphasized the restart of refining operation is in the benefit of everyone on the island.

Valero executives did not elaborate on the negotiations taking place this moment with Pacific Rubiales, Ecopetrol,

PEMEX and PDVSA. According to Ray Buckley, the company will make the necessary investment to ensure the refinery is operation able by September 1. And in order to do so, they will need the help of many of the contract workers who have been hoping and praying for this day to come. Valero warned though that this does not mean the company is out of troubled waters. The economic situation is still vulnerable. Prime Minister Eman reacted immediately saying that with positivism and Aruba's backing, Valero will be able to overcome any difficulty. "We appreciate the efforts of Prime Minister Mike Eman and Finance Minister Mike de Meza toward negotiating the tax settlement agreement and its approval by Parliament," said Kim Bowers, Valero's Executive Vice President and General Counsel. "We also appreciate the patience and flexibility of our employees and the Aruban people during the shutdown period."

The refinery-wide maintenance, called a "turnaround," will commence in the next few weeks and will involve projects to prepare all of the refinery's production units for restart. The turnaround is expected to last approximately 90 days.

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At Westin Aruba Resort

An extravagant rehearsal dinner for Buffy & Michael



by Angela Munzenhofer

WESTIN- Last week Saturday, May 29, 2010 an extravagant Rehearsal dinner took place around the pool deck at Westin Resort. The lovely couple Buffy Schneit and Michael Geller of New York had a superb evening under the starlit Aruba sky while guests enjoyed a 5 star feast catered by Exquisite Caters of Springfield New Jersey. The chefs, David & Michael Esquenazi put on a Caribbean BBQ dinner with entrees included chicken, fish, steak and ribs. The Dessert table was endless from Italian and Jewish desserts that were incredibly delicious. Buffy and Michael planned this wedding event last year with wonderful coordinators Patrick Leppers and Inge van Roon who did an amazing job at orchestrating a perfect evening. The guests and soon to be husband and wife truly enjoyed the get together of family and friends.



Photos by Angela Munzenhofer

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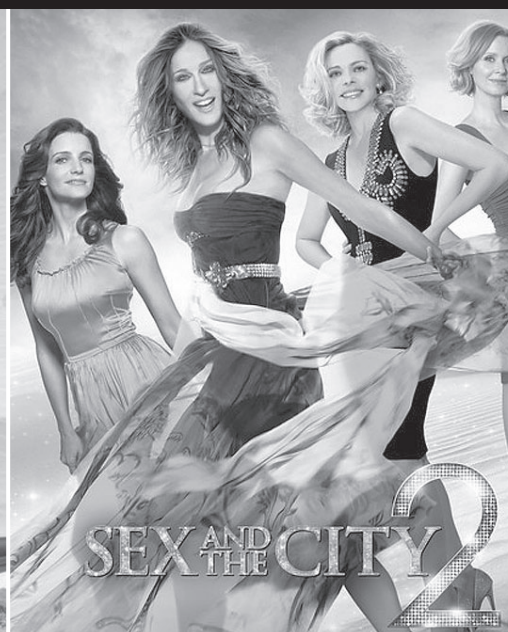
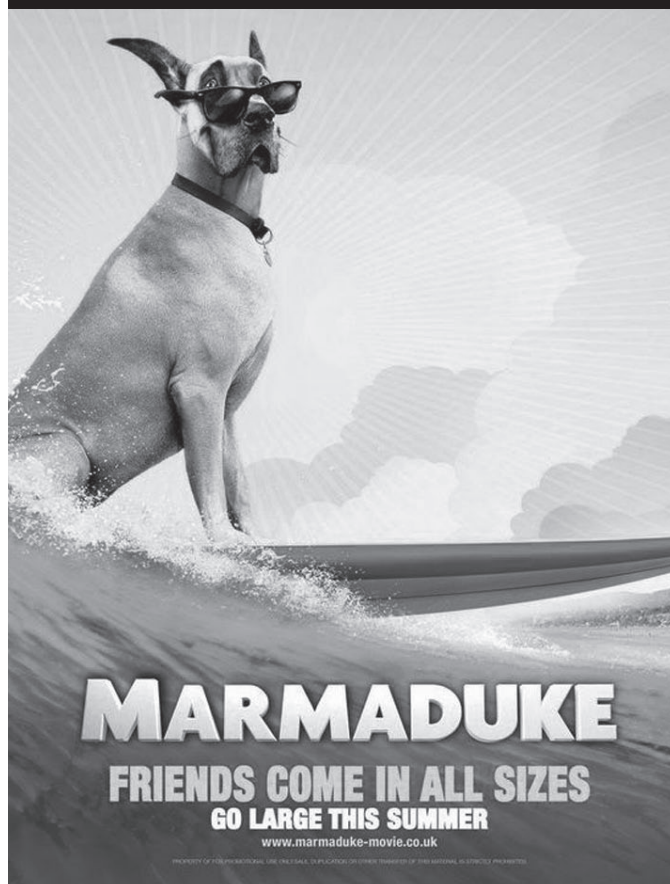


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Due to the Aruba International Film Festival, from June 4 till June 11, there is limited showing at Paseo Herencia. For more information regarding the Aruba International Film Festival, visit their web site: www.arubafilmmfest.com

SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JUNE 3 - JUNE 9

*matinee: saturday - sunday | late show: friday & saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG	MARMADUKE				
NEW	daily:	4:30	6:45	9:00	
	matinee:	12:00	2:15	late show:	11:00
PG-13	PRINS OF PERSIA				
	daily:	5:30	8:00		
	matinee:	12:30	3:00	late show:	11:00
PG	SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D				
	daily:	4:00	6:15	8:30	
	matinee:	1:30	late show:	11:15	
PG-13	DEATH AT A FUNERAL				
	daily:	4:45	7:00	9:15	
	matinee:	12:15	2:30	late show:	11:30
R	SEX AND THE CITY				
	daily:	5:45	8:30		
	matinee:	12:00	2:45	late show:	11:30
PG-13	IRON MAN 2				
	daily:		8:45		
	matinee:		late show:	11:30	
PG	STREET DANCE 3D				
	daily:	4:15	6:30		
	matinee:	2:00	late show:		

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	IRON MAN 2		
	daily:	9:00	
	matinee:	late show:	23:45
PG	JUST WRIGHT		
	daily:	9:15	
	matinee:	late show:	11:30
PG	LETTERS TO JULIET		
	daily:		
	matinee:	late show:	12:00
PG-13	ROBIN HOOD		
	daily:		
	matinee:	late show:	11:00
PG	SHREK FOREVER AFTER		
	daily:		
	matinee:	late show:	11:15
R	SEX AND THE CITY		
	daily:	6:00	
	matinee:	late show:	11:30

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Jamaican Sandwich.....	\$9
Salad & Cup of Soup.....	\$10
Half Slab Original Baby Back Ribs.....	\$10
Bow Tie Pasta in Alfredo Sauce.....	\$10
Bow Tie Pasta with Chicken in Scampi Sauce.....	\$12
Chicken Tender Platter.....	\$13
Fish & Fries.....	\$13
Chicken Stack with Pasta Alfredo.....	\$14
Full Slab Original Baby Back Ribs.....	\$15
Jamaican Grilled Chicken.....	\$15

Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



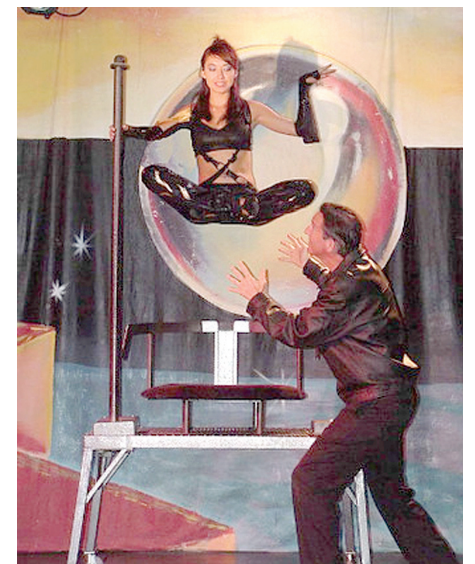
Butz, Belair, Maryland. 'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!"

Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.



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'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along



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FAVI **"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"**

Tonight June 4 and Sunday June 6
Izaline Callister live in
concert in Cas di Cultura
Popular Caribbean Artist received at the airport last night

ORANJESTAD - Izaline Callister, winner of the Edison Award 2009 and hit performer of the 2009 Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival on Aruba, can be seen live in concert on the stage of Cas di Cultura this coming weekend. The fabulous jazz singer, who has taken age-old Caribbean rhythms to a next, jazzy level, found herself faced with an unexpected gap in her busy schedule and decided to fly to Aruba and Curaçao to present her newborn baby to her friends and family members. Izaline will perform in the company of her entire band on June 4 and 6. Tickets cost AWG. 75,-; they are available at CD's & More, Magic FM, Superfood, the Entertainment Group building and at Cas di Cultura. Keeping Izaline's incredible number of dedicated fans, who thronged to Cas di Cultura to hear her sing during the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival in mind, her two performances will surely sell out quickly. For those who do not know her yet: come and see her on stage. This high profile singer is not aloof, on the contrary: her personality shines through and her interaction with her audience makes that everybody just loves her dearly.

Izaline's winning of the Dutch Edison Award did not come as a great surprise: she had been nominated three years in a row already before she won with her release 'Speransa'. The Edison is the oldest music award in The Netherlands; it is presented annually since 1960 by the collective Dutch music industry. The Edison is equivalent to the American Grammy Award.

~ Photo by Julia Renfro ~



The evening Saturday June 5

1959 an evening with great musicians at the Westin

Johnny Farina, Ernesto Ferro, Durban Laverde, Hildward Croes & Jeremy Bonarriba



PALM BEACH - Celebrating the 50+1 Anniversary of the Legendary Grammy Winner song "SLEEP WALK" by Santo & Johnny Farina. The song has been placed in so many films including the movie LA BAMBA Sleep Walk was the last of the instrumental song from the 50's era. Johnny Farina and Ernesto Ferro have been planning to do a show in Los Angeles on Dec 2010 but for some circumstances was postponed, and now for a very special occasion it will happen on Aruba on the Aruba WINE, FOOD & ART FESTIVAL 2010.

Ernesto Ferro has been working as a guitar player and music producer on the music industry since the early 80's, he was member for a long time of the rock band Gillman under the level Sono-Rodven and later became a solo artist working in Venezuela, Italy, Aruba & USA. In 2009, he performed for the premier of the movie VENEZZIA and the gala awards during the ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL at the Egyptian Theater in HOLLYWOOD CA. The movie also will be part of the first Aruba International Film Festival In 2005 Ernesto Ferro put together some extraordinary



musicians foreigners and locals and did a tribute to the rock band QUEEN at the closure of the first Aruba Wine Food & Art Festival. Durban Laverde is a great musician on bass guitar who used to work for some years with the LED ZEPPELIN guitar man Jimmy Page, also he did work with The Rolling Stones (Mick Jagger) David Bowie, Pink Floyd (Dave Gilmore) Olivia Newton John among others... Hildward croes is a well known local musician who has been working as a keyboard player and touring the world with bands as Juan Luis Guerra, Chichi Peralta & Wilfredo Vargas. He has a very open range on play a variety of music styles, from Rock to Merengue to Jazz and Pop. Jeremy Bonarriba is a young local talent who has been play the drums since his



early days and also has an open variety of styles and is a n excellent musician. On the night of the show there

will going to be some surprises and some other guests will going to be part of the show. See you tomorrow night!

At Amsterdam Manor

Valerie and Felix united in matrimony on Eagle Beach



By Angela Munzenhofer
Wedding Exclusive

EAGLE BEACH - On Friday, May 21, 2010, Valerie Gust and Felix Brito were announced husband and wife at the historical Town Hall. It was an intimate ceremony with words recited by the local registrar Betto Christiaans who left everyone in tears of Joy as Felix and Valerie joined in marriage. "It was a very unique ceremony and being able to have an official legal marriage in Aruba made our dream of having an island wedding all that more special", stated Valerie.

The newlyweds have been together for almost 9 years and knew that it was time to get married. Felix, originally

from the Dominican Republic and Valerie from the USA visited Aruba in 2007 while on a cruise. They absolutely fell in love with the beauty of the island, the beaches, the cleanliness and the friendliness of the people. They decided that they needed to see more of this beautiful island, so they returned in 2008 bought a timeshare and have returned ever since.

Valerie and Felix both shared the dream of getting married in the Caribbean and to experience their dream wedding on an island. Last year while vacationing in Aruba they witnessed another couple getting married on Eagle Beach at sunset next to the famous Divi Trees. They knew at that moment

that this was exactly what they wanted and started planning their wedding. The wedding coordinator Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba and Anne Maduro of Passions Restaurant took care of all the details. "These two ladies had such upbeat personalities and warm hearts that we knew we were in great hands. Lissy helped us plan the civil ceremony and the beach blessing. Anne handled all at the semi private reception at Passions on the beach", stated Valerie. The beach blessing took place on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Eagle Beach.

As the guests walked down to the beach area, they were entertained by the tropical tunes of a steelpan player. The groom waited patiently under the bamboo arch as he watched his bride walk down the aisle to become one in matrimony. The ceremony was delivered by Rev. Andy Osbourne which included the Unity Sand Ceremony. The sunset made a great backdrop for Bella Aruba Photography who captured the 'Once in a Lifetime' wedding portraits

Following the wedding a semi private reception took place at Passions on the beach with an elongated table next to the water with mango colored sashes and tropical decorations.

"We don't know if anyone watches the show 'The Bachelor', but this wedding topped everything that has ever happened on any one of the shows, and really was the wedding of our dreams. Every detail was perfect. It was a colorful, relaxing, enjoyable memory for us both with no stress involved. The entire experience was perfect beyond our wildest dreams. We both felt like a king and queen and felt so blessed to be able to enjoy this special

time in our lives exactly how we had dreamed it would be. PERFECT. This could not have been possible without our loving friends and family that attended the event and those that couldn't make it but were in our hearts. Thank you to everyone that made the entire event possible and thank you for your hard work behind the scenes, stated Mr. & Mrs. Brito who added "We are convinced that no other island would have been able to allow for the same enjoyable experience as this is something that can only be experienced by the magic on the island of Aruba and the warmth of the people. Thank you Aruba!!!!

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer

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Holloway suspect accused of \$250K extortion in Ala

Holloway suspect accused of \$250K extortion in Ala

By The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- A Dutch man suspected in the 2005 disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba was charged Thursday in Alabama with trying to extort \$250,000 in return for disclosing the location of her body.

A criminal complaint by the U.S. Attorney in federal court in Birmingham also accused van der Sloot in May 2010 of promising to describe the circumstances of Holloway's death in return for the money. According to a sworn statement, van der Sloot got a partial payment of \$15,000 wired to a Netherlands bank soon after.

He has long been a suspect in Aruba in the disappearance of Holloway, an 18-year-old from Mountain Brook, Ala., who was on a graduation trip to Aruba with other seniors when she turned up missing as they flew home. Her mother still lives in Alabama.

The name of the person paying the money was not given. A call to U.S. Attorney Joyce Vance was not immediately returned. She said at a news conference that her office would not be releasing any more details.

Van der Sloot was arrested Thursday in Chile as a suspect in the death of a 21-year-old Stephany Flores of Peru. Her neck was broken Sunday, five years to the day after Holloway disappeared, and her body found by a maid Tuesday in a Lima hotel room registered to



Dutch citizen Joran van der Sloot arrives at Chile's Investigative Police headquarters in Santiago, Thursday, June 3, 2010. Peruvian police are seeking Van der Sloot in connection with the last May 30 killing of 21-year-old Stephany Flores at a Lima hotel. Van der Sloot was previously arrested in the 2005 disappearance of U.S. teen Natalie Holloway, but later released by Dutch authorities. (AP Photo/Aliosha Marquez)

van der Sloot. Police believe he met the University of Lima business student for the first time the previous night at a nearby casino.

The two-count complaint in Alabama also charged van der Sloot with wire fraud stemming from the \$15,000.

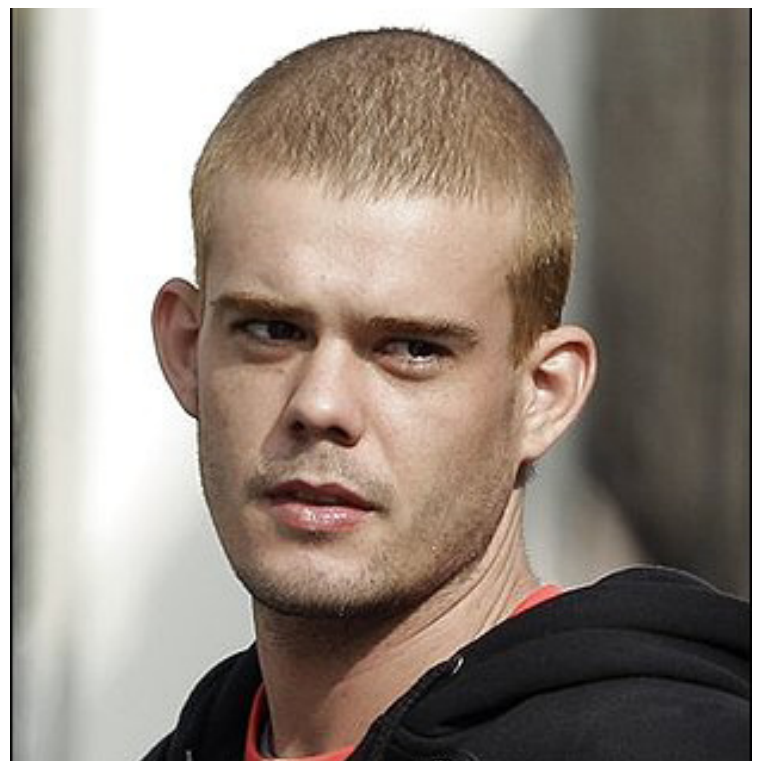
A statement from Holloway's mother, Beth Twitty said that she "extends her deepest sympathy to the family of Stephany Flores Ramirez and prays for swift and sure justice." She said that she was grateful for the prayers and support she's received.

A message left for Van der

Sloot's attorney, Joe Tacopina of New York City, was not immediately returned.

Aruban authorities didn't prosecute van der Sloot in Holloway's May 30, 2005, disappearance even after he was caught on video saying he had asked a friend to dump her body, because there was no evidence to support his taped version.

He told investigators he left her on a beach, drunk. That's the last anyone saw of her. Van der Sloot was twice arrested in her disappearance - and twice released for insufficient evidence.



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In the name of human rights, France should not ban the veil

Faro, Portugal – There's a misguided race to ban the face-veil in Europe, and France is taking the lead.

On May 19, the French cabinet approved legislation to ban women in France from wearing full Islamic face-coverings, the burqa, and niqab, in public areas. France, which contains Europe's largest Muslim population, has been headed in this direction for a while. In 2004, the government banned students and staff from wearing veils in schools. At that time, the rationale was French secularism. This time, as French President Nicolas Sarkozy says, the rationale for the ban is that it saves women from "subservience and debasement."

But banning women from wearing a veil trespasses on their rights as much as the repressive restrictions that force them to wear a veil.

Historical precedents show that many Muslim women who veil choose to do so. In 2003 when some German states began banning head scarves in the classrooms, the teachers opted to retire instead, stating that wearing a head covering was their personal preference.

Turkey had a series of formal and informal bans, which culminated in the 1990s. But by 2008, thanks to backlash, the government

was forced to introduce a constitutional right to wear the veil. Iran experimented with forced unveiling of women under Reza Shah Pahlavi in 1936. Then, following the White Revolution in 1963, Empress Farah Pahlavi, who did not veil, became a public symbol of Iranian female emancipation. The backlash against the Pahlavi attempts to liberate religious conservatives arguably led to the Islamic Revolution, in which many conservative women actively participated to overthrow the monarchy.

Another assertion made by those in favor of banning female veiling is that the women who choose to veil after immigrating have not been exposed to Western society long enough to realize, as Eric Besson, France's hard-line immigration minister put it, that "the burqa is unacceptable and contrary to the principles of national identity, of sexual equality, and of the French Republic." This, however, assumes that the state has a right to interfere with personal autonomy, specifically religious clothing, when it perceives it's for someone's own good.

But according to Article 18 of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to freedom of

thought, conscience and religion ... freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

The burqa and the niqab are part of an individual's religious beliefs. It's strikingly contradictory therefore that France, in order to liberate women from perceived Islamic oppression, has to violate their universal human rights.

To be sure, given that France's face-covering ban will only affect 2,000 citizens out of 62.3 million, the imminent interdiction is more a symbolic issue than a practical matter.

So why can't the French tolerate the burqa or the niqab?

The resistance to symbols of Islamic faith in public indicate an increasing acceptance in France of the once extremely conservative anti-immigration currents, introduced by Jean-Marie Le Pen and the National Front party, which proposed sending the 3 million Muslim immigrants back to their countries in 1995.

Islamic dress has become more noticeable in France because increased immigration has changed the dynamic of urban life, transforming some urban areas into Muslim-only ghettos.

Time to Call Out Israel's Bad Behavior

The Obama Administration's equivocation over Israel's outrageous deadly assault on humanitarian ships headed for Gaza, while not surprising, is nevertheless unacceptable. Once again Israel's bad behavior has dug a deep hole for itself, and we're left debating whether or not to jump in with them. Responsible governments behave responsibly. In its dealings with Gaza over the past 43 years, Israel has been anything but responsible, and we need to clearly distance ourselves from their actions.

For decades Israel occupied Gaza reducing its people to total dependency as day-laborers in Israel. No infrastructure was built (no sewage, no paved roads, no sanitation system, no modern power grid etc). During the Oslo years, Israel remained in control of Gaza, allowing no independent Palestinian commerce to develop with the outside world. When Israel evacuated Gaza, they did so unilaterally and yet retained total control over all access and egress, thus insuring that the strip's economy would remain stunted -- with more than 65% of the population living below the poverty level and youth unemployment averaging 80% since the mid 1990's.

The on-going Israeli blockade of Gaza is illegal and immoral. Gaza is one of the poorest places on earth (I've been there and been overwhelmed by what I experienced). Israel blames the Palestinians for their own plight, but Israel is the occupying power that has de-developed and/or strangled Gaza for over four decades. What they are doing now, I believe, amounts to racially motivated collective punishment against an entire population.

The punishment of Gaza is extreme. People there (including U.S. NGO's) are unable to import basic materials needed to rebuild the thousands of homes that were destroyed in the January 2009 war. In addition there are severe shortages of potable water, power, fuel and medicines. Israel's argument that "there is no crisis" owes to the fact that Gaza's population are maintained at bare subsistence -- which can only be acceptable if you view Palestinians as less deserving of consideration than other human beings.

This naval assault was unnecessary, brutal and heavy handed -- a crude and disproportionate use of power done to prove a point. What Israel will do now is display the same heavy handedness in their propaganda efforts: they will deny, they will intimidate opponents and they will portray themselves as victims (it helps that they are still holding the ships and many passengers -- thus giving themselves time to craft an uncontested response).

The US has too much at stake to play Israeli coatholder or cheerleader in this fight. This week the White House was hoping to give a boost to Israeli-Palestinian peace talks -- forget that for now. They were also hoping to build international support for sanctions against Iran -- forget that, too. And the White House was looking to mark the year anniversary of Obama's Cairo speech -- failing to criticize Israel's behavior on the high seas, will dampen those Cairo+1 celebrations.

So what should the US do with Israel? If they are a friend and an ally we value, we tell them the truth.




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Inicia juicio por crímenes en prisión de Operación Cóndor

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Dos ex militares y tres ex agentes de inteligencia son juzgados desde el jueves por crímenes de lesa humanidad cometidos en un centro de tortura montado en el marco de la Operación Cóndor, que coordinó la represión ilegal de las dictaduras del Cono sur en la década de 1970.

En la causa están imputados el coronel retirado Rubén Visuara, el general retirado Eduardo Cabanillas, el ex agente civil de Inteligencia del Ejército, Raúl Guglielminetti y los ex agentes del Servicio de Inteligencia del Estado (SIDE), Honorio Martínez Ruiz y Eduardo Ruffo. Se los juzga por delitos de privación ilegal de la libertad, imposición de tormentos y homicidio calificado, en perjuicio de 65 víctimas, cometidos en "Automotores Orletti" entre el 11 de mayo y el 3 de noviembre de 1976.

"Automotores Orletti" era un centro de tortura que funcionaba bajo la fachada de un taller mecánico en el barrio de Flores, en la capital argentina. Por allí pasaron uruguayos, chilenos, bolivianos y cubanos. La mayoría no sobrevivió.

Orletti y otros centros de tortura similares tenían como fin capturar a izquierdistas exiliados en Argentina, Chile,

Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia y Brasil cuando estos países estaban bajo el yugo de sangrientas dictaduras.

El fiscal federal Federico Delgado dijo ante el tribunal Federal Número 1 que Orletti era un "enclave del terror que no lo conducía una horda desbocada, sino algo calculado y planificado que convertía a los prisioneros en condenados a muerte, donde reinaba la cultura de la crueldad, la corrupción degradante de poder sin límites".

Los prisioneros atados y vendados en los ojos eran arrojados sobre el suelo manchado de aceite entre coches minúsculos y maquinaria en Orletti. Los motores eran encendidos para tapar los gritos de los prisioneros sometidos a la pica eléctrica o levantados sobre poleas y luego sumergidos de cabeza en el agua, método conocido como "el submarino".

Allí estuvo detenido Marcelo Gelman, hijo del poeta argentino Juan Gelman. Su cuerpo apareció dentro de un tambor con cemento en el río Luján. El joven fue secuestrado junto a su mujer, quien estaba embarazada de siete meses. Ella fue trasladada a Uruguay y permanece desaparecida. Gelman pudo encontrar a su nieta Macarena en 2000.



El ex agente civil de Inteligencia del Ejército, Raúl Guglielminetti, izquierda, el ex general del ejército Eduardo Rodolfo Cabanillas, centro, y el ex coronel Rubén Víctor Visuara, derecha, presentes en el juicio por violaciones a los derechos humanos en Buenos Aires, el jueves 3 de junio de 2010. (AP Photo/Ezequiel Pontoriero, DyN)

Sandro Soba tenía ocho años cuando fue secuestrado junto a sus padres y trasladados a Orletti. El niño fue testigo de los tormentos a los que fue sometido su padre, Adalberto Soba.

Soba y su madre fueron liberados y regresaron a Uruguay. Nunca volvieron a ver al padre. "Tenía miedo de cerrar los ojos y olvidar los detalles de lo que había visto. Sabía que algún día tendría que contarle a alguien sobre el lugar a donde nos llevaron y vi a mi padre por última vez

para hacer justicia", dijo Soba a AP antes de testificar en el juicio. Los cinco imputados, que tienen entre 78 y 61 años, solicitaron a través de sus abogados ser eximidos de asistir al juicio. El presidente del tribunal, Jorge Gettas, les advirtió que están obligados a concurrir a la lectura de la

acusación, a las indagatorias, a los alegatos finales y al veredicto.

Unos 13.000 disidentes políticos desaparecieron durante la dictadura en Argentina (1976-1983), según cifras oficiales. Para organismos de derechos humanos fueron 30.000.

Prevén aumento de enfermedades por Agatha en Guatemala

GUATEMALA (AP) - La Organización Panamericana de la Salud dijo que se espera un incremento de enfermedades respiratorias e intestinales como consecuencia de la humedad y la contaminación tras la tormenta tropical Agatha. "En dos o tres semanas podrían elevarse los casos de dengue, que el mes pasado tenía un incremento tres veces mayor que en (el mismo periodo de) 2009", dijo la OPS el jueves en un comunicado de prensa.

Indicó que esperan que los daños que la tormenta provocó a las cosechas tenga un impacto directo en los niveles de desnutrición, ya de por sí alarmantes en el país. Hay unas 136.000 familias en riesgo de padecer hambre en el denominado

"corredor seco", donde la falta de lluvias provoca estragos en las cosechas de subsistencia.

Según la OPS, se prevé también un aumento en las enfermedades del sistema digestivo debido a la escasez de agua potable y el hacinamiento provocado por la movilización de decenas de miles de guatemaltecos a albergues temporales al quedar dañadas o destruidas sus casas.

La tormenta Agatha afectó Guatemala el fin de semana con las lluvias más fuertes de los últimos 60 años. La Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres informó que el número de fallecidos se mantiene en 156 y la cifra de desaparecidos es de 107 personas.

Cerveza Polar, en la mira de Chávez

CARACAS (Reuters) - La pasión por la cerveza Polar era una de esas cosas que todavía unía a los venezolanos. Al menos hasta ahora. La embestida del presidente Hugo Chávez contra Empresas Polar, el mayor fabricante de alimentos del país, amenaza con politizar también una de las bebidas favoritas de los venezolanos. Chávez tiene en la mira al conglomerado del magnate Lorenzo Mendoza, que considera un obstáculo para transformar a la nación miembro de la OPEP al socialismo.

"Si tú crees que a las Empresas Polar no me atrevo a nacionalizarlas, estás bien equivocado", dijo el martes durante una cadena de radio y televisión de seis horas. "Bájate de esa nube, Mendoza. Aquí en Venezuela se acabaron los invulnerables, se acabaron las vacas sagradas", añadió. No fue su primer ataque a Polar, pero sí uno de los más agresivos. Hace poco dijo que al país no le hacía falta una planta de cervezas y planteó reconvertirla en una de helados.

Chávez dice que Polar lidera una conspiración de empresas privadas que buscan desestabilizar a su Gobierno manteniendo artificialmente alta la inflación. Pero analistas interpretan la ofensiva contra Polar en clave electoral. Chávez, dicen, necesita un enemigo con miras a los comicios legislativos de septiembre.

Chile:

Policía retiene a holandés Joran Van der Sloot acusado de asesinato en Perú

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - El holandés Joran Van der Sloot, buscado por el asesinato de una joven en Perú fue retenido el jueves por la policía chilena mientras se recibe una orden de detención de Interpol, informó el subprefecto Fernando Ovalle. "Fue ubicado de acuerdo a un protocolo de procedimiento", dijo Ovalle pero recaló que aún no se recibe la orden de detención de Interpol. "Llegamos a él de acuerdo a las labores de los detectives de la policía de investigaciones", agregó Ovalle, quien dijo que ahora se le hará "un control de su identificación". Agregó que existía la posibilidad de que Van der Sloot sea expulsado del país si no se recibe la orden de detención de Interpol. "Estamos esperando que



Detectives chilenos conducen al holandés Joran Van Der Sloot, centro, quien fue localizado en un barrio de Santiago el jueves 3 de junio de 2010. La policía peruana lo considera el principal sospechoso del asesinato en Lima de Stephany Flores, de 21 años de edad. (AP Photo/Roberto Candia)

va a disponer la autoridad policial de Perú, con el objeto de saber cuál va a ser la situación", agregó Ovalle. "Es muy factible que exista una expulsión" hacia Perú. Añadió que el holandés fue ubicado al interior de un taxi cuando se dirigía hacia Valparaíso. "no opuso resistencia" a los policías y ha estado muy tranquilo en el cuartel, dijo Ovalle. Van der Sloot fue trasladado a las 13.35 horas (17.35 gmt) al cuartel de la policía de investigaciones en un vehículo oscuro. Bajó del automóvil rodeado por tres policías, pero sin ser esposado. Vestía un polerón negro con inscripciones, pantalón crema y zapatillas deportivas blancas. Van der Sloot, que se veía muy relajado, no respondió a los periodistas que a la distancia intentaban entablar una conversación con él.

El prefecto inspector Douglas Rodríguez, de la región chilena de Arica y Parinacota, informó a la AP el miércoles que Van der Sloot ingresó a Chile el 31 de mayo.

La policía peruana acusó al holandés del asesinato de Stephany Flores, de 21 años, durante el fin de semana en Lima. La joven fue hallada muerta en la madrugada del miércoles en un cuarto del hotel TAC en el distrito de Miraflores, Lima.

La policía peruana había informado que Van der Sloot ingresó a Perú procedente de Colombia el 14 de mayo y se hospedó en el hotel TAC, el cual abandonó aproximadamente cuatro horas después de la muerte de Stephany Flores, en la mañana del domingo.

El holandés fue acusado en 2005 por la desaparición de la joven Natalee Holloway, originaria de Alabama, durante un viaje de promoción a la isla de Aruba. El cuerpo de Holloway nunca fue encontrado. Van der Sloot fue detenido y luego liberado hasta dos veces por falta de pruebas

Uribe espera a fin de su mandato Colombia normalice relaciones con sus vecinos

BOGOTA (AP) - El presidente Alvaro Uribe dijo el jueves que espera que con el fin de su mandato, Colombia pueda restablecer o normalizar las relaciones diplomáticas con sus vecinos. "La personalidad de este presidente de combate sale de la casa de Nariño y vuelve al mas bello oficio, al del ciudadano del común. Yo confío que eso produzca un nuevo aire en los gobiernos extranjeros para no afectar el derecho de los ciudadanos de frontera", dijo el mandatario durante una ceremonia de condecoración al diario La Opinión de Cúcuta, ciudad a 400 kilómetros al noreste de Bogotá en

la frontera con Venezuela.

Durante el gobierno de Uribe (2002-2010) las relaciones políticas entre Colombia y Venezuela se caracterizaron por una permanente tensión hasta cuando el presidente Hugo Chávez en 2008 declaró que los nexos diplomáticos con Colombia se iban al "congelador".

Uribe advirtió que lo único que no se podía restablecer era la "vieja equivocación de creer que por generar complacencias en las relaciones internacionales no se podía reclamar contra la presencia de terroristas de Colombia más allá de las fronteras".

En marzo de 2008, un comando del ejército colombiano llegó a territorio ecuatoriano donde abatió a Raúl Reyes, segundo al mando de la guerrilla Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) que se encontraba en un campamento clandestino en el vecino país. Otra veintena de personas murio durante el ataque. Por el hecho, el mandatario ecuatoriano Rafael Correa, rompió relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia.

Más temprano en una ceremonia de la policía, Uribe dijo que desempolvaría su tarjeta profesional de abogado para servirle a las fuerzas militares.

Eleccion nueva junta directiva de ASOCOL

ORANJESTAD - La directiva de la Asociacion Amigos De Colombia (ASOCOL), convoca a todos sus socios activos, a una asamblea general, para elegir una nueva directiva. Esta se llevara a cabo en la sede de la Fundación Solidaridad del Dr.Carlos Vallejo en Boegoeroei 49-B, el sábado 19 de Junio 2010 a partir de las 3 PM.

Se recuerda que para participar como socio activo, deben estar a paz y salvo con la tesorería, o sea haber pagado la membresía de los 35 florines anuales (2008 y 2009). Pueden

cancelarlo en la sede de ASOCOL, vía banco C.M.B. 025428504 cuenta corriente o el día de la asamblea.

Los que quieran participar, como nuevo socio activo, o sea con derecho de voto y ser elegidos, deben presentar su solicitud de inscripción como tales, a más tardar el Viernes 18 de Junio, no más tarde que las 7 PM, para ser aceptados como tales por la junta directiva; en la actual sede de Asocol, en Marielis Learning Institute en Kammerling Onnestaat 6B. Los esperamos.



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